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Page 10





Page 26



Page 42



realites	THE REAL PROPERTY.
BATTLE OF THE TITANS: Snake vs. Dragon	10
HART AND NEIDHART: Too Tough For Jimmy?	14
BILLY JACK INTERVIEW: Haynes Speaks His Mind	18
HULK AND ORNDORFF: How The Pros Rate Them	26
SLICK: A Look At A Mysterious New Manager	30
BREAKING RECORDS IN TORONTO: Biggest Wrestling Event Ever	34
THE BODYSLAM: Who Has The Best?	38
RODDY PIPER: Has The Rowdy One Really Changed?	42
MANHANDLER: A Tough Lady Whips The Men	46
LEAPING LANNY: He's Putting On Muscle	52
ROUGEAUS' QUEBEC: A Canadian Tag Team At Home	56
Departments	
Around The Ring Talking With Readers	

	Carl Selly
Around The Ring Talking With Readers	4
WWF Lowdown Snooping Behind The Scenes	6
Sounding Off Wrestlers Speak Their Minds	24
Best And Worst Courageous Acts	33
WWF Wrap Up Goings On In The WWF	63
Headlocks Puzzles And Games	64
Poffo's Poetry Lanny Takes Pen In Hand	64

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Around The Ring

by Ed Ricciuti

4

very day the offices of the WWF Magazine are flooded with letters from fans. Some applaud their favorite wrestlers. Some toss brickbats at wrestlers the writers deem offensive. Some have gripes about our coverage; others offer us compliments. And many—very many—ask questions.

We try to read all letters. We learn from many of them what you, the readers, like and don't like. What you'd like to see in the magazine. Your feelings about the WWF and the athletes who compete in it. Unfortunately, as much as we wish we could, we can't respond to each and every letter. There simply isn't time. That is why the column you are now reading was established. It is an effort to provide a forum for you, the readers. We'll try to print as many letters, or portions thereof, as we can and comment on them or answer the questions they ask.

Prominent among letters re-



ceived as this issue was being prepared were those bemoaning the brief hiatus from wrestling taken by Rowdy Roddy Piper to do what, he says, "was ncbody else's business." Piper, of course, is back in spades, rowdy as ever. In hopes he reads this column, we are printing some of your comments in his behalf.

Writes Mike Shaw of Brouge, Pennsylvania, "I think you (this magazine) don't give enough credit to Roddy Piper. You ought to give him his own section in the magazine."

And Lorraine Correa of Brooklyn, New York, says, "Roddy is so wonderful and a lot of us love him. He makes WWF wrestling... exciting with his surprises and instigations...Because of him, many matches have actually been signed on Piper's Pit."

And here is a random sampling of yet other comments on the Rowdy One.

"Roddy's No. 1..." Ron Wood, Trenton, New Jersey.

"He's (Roddy) really made wrestling...popular." Rose Amici, Allentown, Pennsylvania.

"I think you are the greatest wrestler of all time." Bobby D., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

We even received a gripe for publishing a poem about Piper by our grappling poet, Leaping Lanny Poffo. It came from Dan Laudicina of New Windsor, Maryland. He even offered his own poem in rebuttal and, with apologies to Lanny, it is printed below.

Dan writes, "I was really disturbed with Poffo's harsh words about Piper in his poetry section of your magazine (August/September



issue). Please print this in your magazine and give it to Poffo so every Piper fan knows that Poffo's words were avenged."

Here's the poem, edited for brevity:

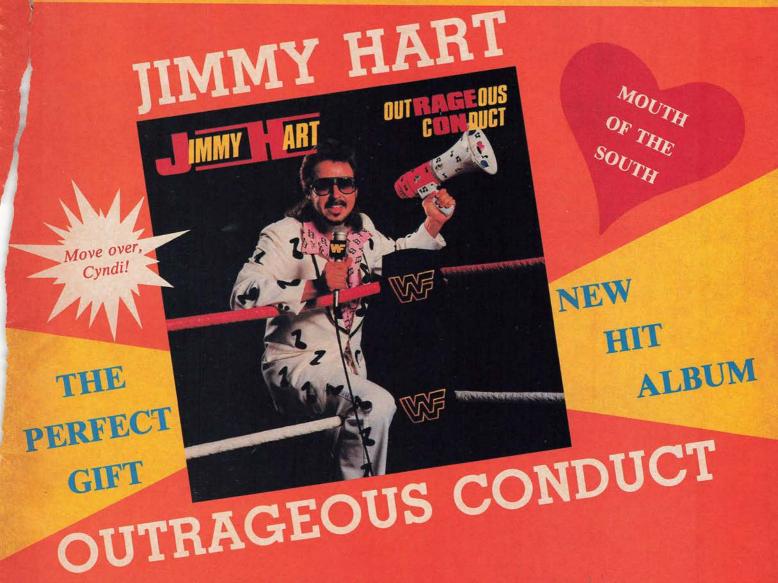
Lanny Poffo, you're such a fool.
Piper and his Pit are really cool.
All Piper fans must take a stand
And lend Piper your helping hand.
It's called a "kilt," not a dress,
And you didn't mention Piper's
success.

He's one of the best I've ever seen, Really cunning and oh so keen. So, Lanny, be careful with the words you choose Because, if you wrestled Piper, You'd come out bruised.

Before we close, we'd like to pose a question to readers. The WWF is packed with wrestlers who are super-quick and tremendously agile. We wonder which one is the readers' choice for the quickest man in the WWF ring? Let us know. Send your choices to:

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WWF LOWDOWN

Editor's Note: With this issue, we begin a new department, WWF Low-down. It takes you behind the scenes in the WWF for a look at what's happening outside the glare of the ring lights. We hope you enjoy it.

ome fans think that Handsome Harley Race doesn't deserve the King of the Ring crown, which he won a couple of months ago at a WWF tourney in Sullivan Stadium, the home of the New England Patriots in Foxboro, Massachusetts. There have been complaints that Race is just a pompous phony who should not be ranked highly in the WWF. Pompous Race may be, but phony he's not. Race is one of the finest wrestlers and toughest competitors ever to don the tights.

6

Harley and King of the Ring trophy

Even his adversaries and those who disagree with his ring decorum—he often tosses out the rulebook—admit that Race is wres-

tling royalty. Race has had a major influence in shaping a bevy of major wrestling moves and holds, most notably the suplex. He has refined and developed techniques that myriad other grapplers have emulated. If any man understands all the nuances of professional wrestling, it is Race. He's been around for quite a while but is as durable as rawhide. And with every year, he keeps adding to his immense ring knowledge. Whether or not you like seeing him wearing royal purple, he is a wrestler's wrestler.

* * *

The Rougeau Brothers' steam-roller from the top ropes is most impressive, a devastating move. But apparently the Rougeaus want to improve it. Before a recent WWF card, they were spied going over the move with fellow-Canadian Edouard Carpentier, once known as wrestling's "Flying Frenchman" and now a WWF French language commentator. Carpentier used the steamroller to score countless victories.

* * *

Paul Roma and S.D. "Special Delivery" Jones have emerged as the hottest tag team on WWF tours of Australia. Jones, who has battled most of the top contenders in the WWF over the past several years, is a seasoned veteran. Roma, a rugged, good-looking youngster, is still a little raw, but he has developed the best flying powerslam in the sport. Does their Australian success mean that Jones and Roma will engage in increased tag team competition in North America? WWF officials aren't saying but, if Roma and Jones do try their hand on a regular basis, they will find the



Raymond Rougeau with Bret Hart in a leglock

competition hot and heavy, given the large number of successful tag teams now in the ring.

* * *

As you'll find out when reading the story in this issue on the WWF, spectacular in Toronto's Exhibition Stadium, it was more football than wrestling weather in the Canadian city (as it was elsewhere in southeastern Canada and the northeastern United States). The wrestling action was so hot that the grapplers did not feel the cold and, after their matches, they could retire to the dressing room. No one, however, spent more time in the ring than WWF ring announcer Howard Finkel. He, however, was prepared for the chill. Under his immaculate tuxedo, Finkel wore two heavy winter shirts.

* * *

How long can the British Bull-dogs hold on to the WWF Tag
Team Title? Close observers of
the WWF scene say it will be a
miracle if the Bulldogs can continue
to hold onto their belts. It's not that
there's anything wrong with the
Bulldogs. It's just that the tag team
competition has never been better
or more equal. Any of a half dozen
contending teams are of championship caliber. So on a given night,
any of the contenders could end
the Bulldogs' reign.

MADONNA 4 3 8 1 1 TRUE BLUE See
THE JUDDS: ROCKIN' 5 4 2 6 5 WITH THE RHYTHM
BILL COSBY 2 4 7 4 7You'll Understand
*DARYL HALL: 3 Hearts 2 3 6 9 1 In The Happy Ending Machine [RCA]
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*BILLY IDOL 2 4 6 7 4
*JEFFREY OSBORNE 3 4 3 0 0 EMOTIONAL ASM
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Anne Murray: Something To Talk About Tomita: The Planets (Holst)	61989
Tomita: The Planets (Holst)	. 34256 *
Mr. Mister: Welcome To The Real World . Simple Minds: Once Unco. A Time	43765*
Simple Minds: Once Upon A Time Madonna: Like A Vission	. 42320 *
Madonna: Like A Virgin The Cars: Greatest Hits	. 61153
Hank Williams, Jr.: Gt. Hits 2	. 53702
Sting: Dream Of Blue Turtles	. 63883
Julian Lennon: Secret Daydreaming	. 50266
Miami Vice/TV Soundtrack	14803
Starship: Knee Deep In Hoopla	44158
Willie Nelson: Collector's Series	04500
Bob Seger: Night Moves	42504
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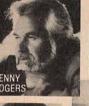
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ACNE: WHAT REALLY CAUSES IT? AND WHAT REALLY DOESN'T CAUSE IT?

The good news is that for most people, chocolate, candy bars, nuts and cola do *not* cause acne.

The bad news is that your body's maturing *can* lead to acne. And you can't do much to keep your body from maturing (even if you wanted to!).

Here's what happens. When you start maturing, the body steps up its production of hormones. In both males and females.

This can stimulate your sebaceous glands—the oil-producing glands on your face, back, and shoulders. They, in turn, can produce sebum that can react with acne-causing bacteria. And turn into what is unfondly known as a pimple.

DOES ALL THIS STOP WHEN YOU'RE OVER 21?

Unfortunately, not always. This reaction within your sebaceous glands can continue —well into your twenties!

CAN ACNE BE CURED?

Up to 90% of all people in their teens develop acne in one form or other. Not one of them welcomes it—and not one of them can cure it. But...

ACNE CAN BE CONTROLLED.

With proper cleansing and treatment during the teen years and early twenties, pimples can be minimized in most individuals. Even more important,

you can help save your skin from permanent scarring.

HOW TO HEAL THE PIMPLES YOU ALREADY HAVE.

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The medicine is benzoyl peroxide. Oxy™ made it famous. There is nothing better for drying up zits in a hurry.

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For more stubborn acne pimples, there's Oxy-10, with maximum strength 10% benzoyl peroxide. For common zits, there's Oxy-5,* with 5% benzoyl peroxide.

And for times when you've got zits and have to make the best of them, make the least of them—with



Oxy-10° Cover. It has the same maximum strength 10% benzoyl peroxide formula as Oxy-10—and it conceals as it heals!

HOW TO KEEP FUTURE PIMPLES FROM HAPPENING.

There is no way to guarantee you won't get zits. But with a little help from Oxy, you *can* help prevent a lot of them.

Remember, zits are caused by sebum in those relentless sebaceous glands, reacting with acne bacteria.

Oxy gives you ways to fight back. Read on.

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Oxy not only dries up the zits you already have... it helps stop the zits you're going to get.

That's because Oxy can be two places at once: on the surface of your skin, to dry up zits... and deep down in your pores, to kill acne bacteria

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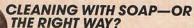
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beneath the surface of your problem. Can't cope with blackheads. Or clogged pores. Or acne bacteria.

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where acne bacteria and sebum react to form zits. So it gets them before they get you.

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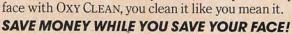
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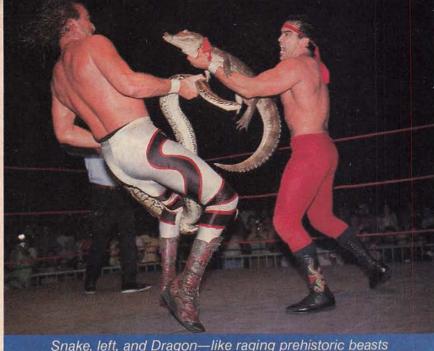
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Snake, left, and Dragon—like raging prehistoric beasts

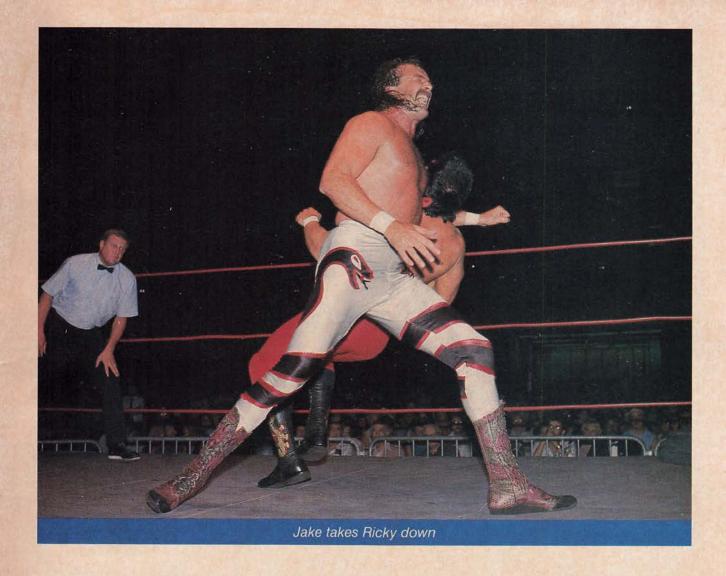
Jake "The Snake" Roberts and Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat meet in a clash that led to the **Snake Pit Challenge in this**

ost WWF fans know by now that Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat and Jake "The Snake" Roberts have vowed to settle their grudge against one another in a "Snake Pit" match, which means, simply, go for the jugular with no holds barred. Little known, however, is the reason why they have taken to this dangerous course of action. The truth is that both Ricky and Jake know that, under the rules, the goal each has set for himself never will be reached. And that goal is the total destruction of the other man.

This realization came about for both men after a match a few months ago under the eyes of a very tough referee. Not long after Roberts Pearl-Harbored Steamboat with a DDT to the arena floor just before a nationally televised bout -an act that exploded bad feelings between the two into a full-blown war-Steamboat and Roberts fought a match in which both lost their cool and were disqualified by the official. Although the two grapplers had pulled out all the stops and battered one another severely, neither slackened his desire to humiliate his opponent. While it lasted, however, the bout was a wowser.

As the bell rang, Roberts struck quickly, like a bushmaster darting out of the jungle brush. He lashed out of his corner and, faking an attempt at a lockup, smashed Ricky in the jaw with an elbow. Roberts, a premature leer of triumph on his face, quickly followed up with a kick to the Dragon's midsection, then a double chop to the neck. Doubled up with pain, the wind kicked out of him, Steamboat gasped for air. Ringsiders could sense that Ricky knew an appalling fact—the bout was only seconds old, and he was in perfect position for a Roberts DDT that would put out his lights.

Predictably, Jake made his move. And Steamboat, although groggy, was ready for it. As Roberts came in on him, Steamboat suddenly lifted his head, which had been bent down in pain, and rammed it into the Snake's lean belly.



Now it was Roberts who was sucking wind, which gave Steamboat time to recover his senses. The trouble was that, by the time Ricky shook off this wooziness, Roberts was also ready.

Thus, it was as if the bout had a second beginning. The two men warily circled one another, looking for an opening—Roberts moving fluidly and seemingly without effort, Ricky on his toes, martial arts style. When neither could find an advantage, they went for a lockup.

In one another's grasp, the two still angled for a quick opening, neither committing his full strength to the lockup. Again, neither man could get the right angle and, frustrated, they broke off. Once more they circled. Then Ricky feinted toward Roberts' midsection. When Jake went for the fake, Ricky moved in like lightning and explosively floored Roberts with a quick

Ricky and Jake know that under the rules the goal of total destruction of the other man never will be reached.

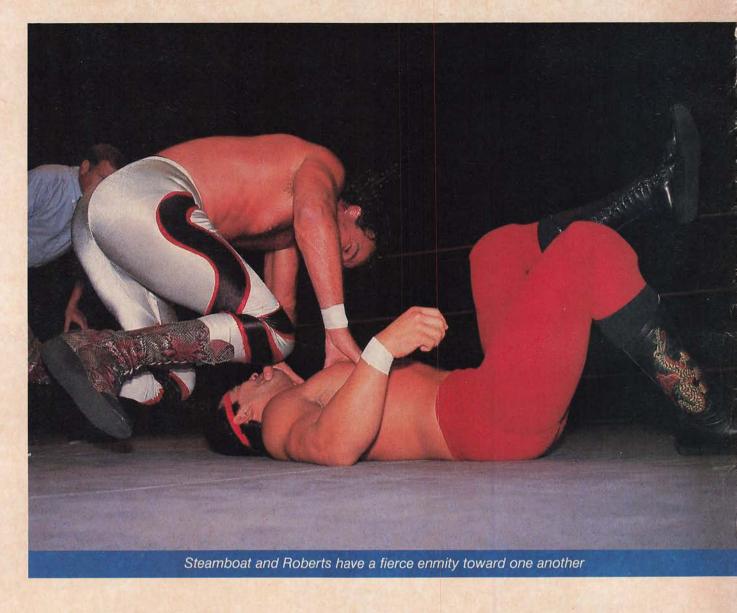
hip toss.

As Roberts angrily tried to rise, Steamboat went for a wristlock, but the Snake countered with a savage low blow that made Ricky grimace in pain and bring down his arms. Before Ricky could recover, Roberts was on him with a flurry of smashes to the head. Fists, forearms and elbows rocked Ricky until the sweat flew like wind-driven rain from his body.

Going for the kill, Roberts seized Ricky by the hair and prepared to smash his face into a knee. In doing so, however, Roberts again left his midsection open and, with fury born of desperation, Steamboat sent a karate special—a front snap kick—to the Snake's rippling stomach muscles. Almost faster than the eye could follow, Ricky followed up with a second kick, then a third.

Each time Steamboat's foot smashed home, Jake's body shuddered. He seemed out of gas, or so Steamboat thought. Ricky grabbed Jake's arm and attempted an Irish whip into the turnbuckle, but Jake reversed it, sent Steamboat careening into the ropes and, as he bounced off, rocked him with an elbow, followed up by a vicious eye rake.

Blindly, Ricky lashed out with both fists. And, miraculously, both landed in the Snake's face. Jake pounded back. Ricky retaliated. Jake offered more of the same.



Scientific tactics and cool strategy were forgotten as both men tore and clawed at each other as if they were ravening reptiles out of the Dinosaur Age.

Throughout it all, the referee had watched the two men intently. But he had not interfered. With the match now out of hand, however, he exerted his authority. "Break," he ordered, as he tried to intervene between the two rage-filled men. Suddenly, the official was on the canvas. The wrestler who had struck the official was not identifiable, given the flurry that the two combatants were exchanging. (Some ringside observers said Jake had purposely lashed out at the official, but it was not proved.) As far as the referee was conBefore Steamboat parted the ropes to exit, he turned and in a half whisper, said, "Another time, Snake." "Any time, Dragon," Jake hissed back. "Any time you want to feel the serpent's sting."

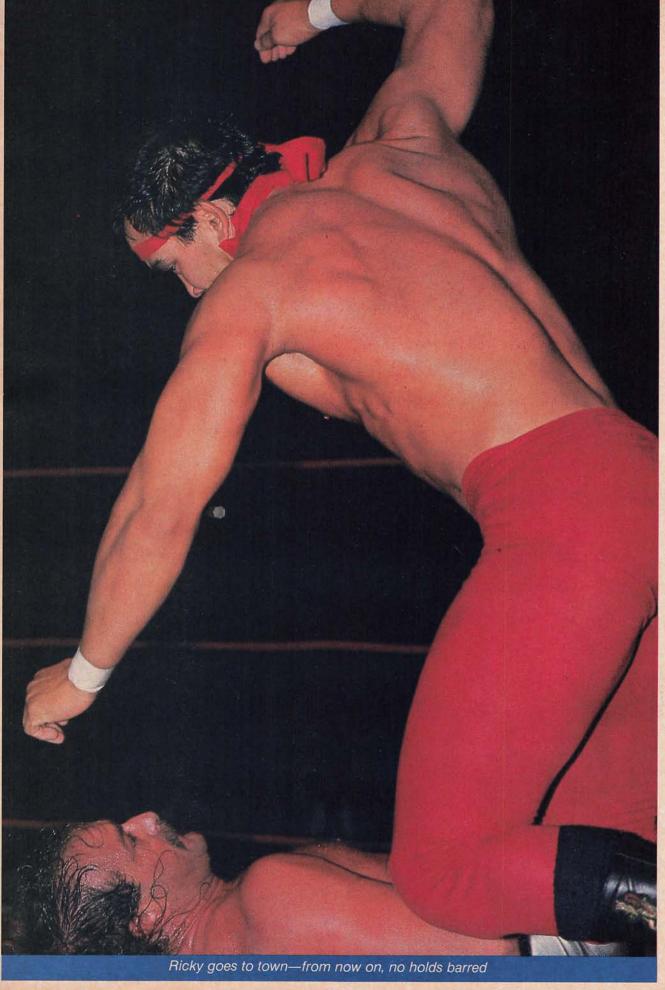
cerned, that was all she wrote. He signalled a double disqualification. The bell clanged repeatedly. When the wrestlers still did not stop

brawling, the courageous official rammed his way between the two men and heaved them apart.

The Dragon and the Snake, their chests heaving and eyes glaring, stood a half-dozen paces apart with the referee between them. Despite their rage, each knew that to engage in further combat meant dire consequences, perhaps even a suspension from the WWF.

They disengaged battle, and each retired to an opposite side of the ring to leave. Before Steamboat parted the ropes to exit, he turned and in a half whisper said to Roberts, "Another time, Snake."

"Any time, Dragon," Jake hissed back. "Any time you want to feel the serpent's sting."



HART AND NEIDHART Too much for The Mouth?

By Frank Henson



ou've got to be brutal to be the last ones in the ring with the King of the Battles Royal, Andre the Giant. That was where the Hart Foundation, Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart and Bret "Hit Man" Hart, found themselves during WrestleMania 2's frenzied 20-man over-the-rope Battle Royal. While Chicago's Rosemont Horizon arena shook to the crowds' roar, over the top rope went stars like Bruno Sammartino. Big John Studd, and the Iron Sheik-not to mention the whirlwind tag team the Killer Bees. strongman Ted Arcidi and a truckful of pro football's toughest competitors, including Russ Francis, Jim Fralic and the appliance himself, William "The Refrigerator" Perry. Last to be eliminated: Neidhart and Hart, following an adrenalin-powered rally of vicious high-low assaults which nearly toppled the man-mountain Andre. In the end it was Andre left owning the ring, but WWF fans know it was not for lack of savagery on the part of the Hart Foundation, a savagery, in fact, that makes them one of the most difficult tag teams for a manager to handle.

Given the vicious nature of Neidhart and Hart, doubts have been raised as to whether Jimmy "Mouth of the South" Hart might be in over his head with this pair. But perhaps critics are not looking deep enough. The question is not only whether the cunning Hart can handle the steamrolling duo of the Anvil and Hit Man but whether anybody can control the aggressive, blatantly brutal and yet technically sound wrestling style of the WWF's most vicious tag team.

Control is the key word here. It takes discipline to corral the feisty Foundation. Anyone who is not convinced should see the team in the locker room before a match. The Hart Foundation gets psyched in a similar way to many profootball players—with intense concentration that is positively volcanic. It is all Jimmy Hart can do to keep the pair from doing preevent damage by butting heads, lockers, walls and other wrestlers. Never having been a wrestler

(Jimmy Hart used to be a rock

The Anvil bearhugs B. Brian Blair

singer), Jimmy has to work hard to understand the hurricane nature of the Foundation.

Both Neidhart and Hart hail from highly physical, competitive backgrounds. Nevada-born Neidhart developed his bone-crunching strength in the trenches of the offensive line of the Oakland Raiders, a team whose reputation for punishment is widely recognized in professional sports. Hart acquired his wrestling skills in Calgary, Canada, under the iron fist of his father, famed Canadian wrestler Stu Hart. Combine the Anvil's strength and the Hit Man's moves, and you have 30 years of disciplined physical contact and conditioning.

Neidhart, whose unnerving presence is heightened by an unpredictable, explosive cackle, has little or no interest in discussing his past. "Hey, man," says the Anvil, removing his shades, "we're not here to discuss our diaries. Suffice it to say, we've trained hard, OK?"

And it shows. The Hart Foundation is a clockwork coordinated tag team, certainly on a par with the Bulldogs, and Beefcake and Valentine, in terms of timing. The Mouth of the South deserves credit for recognizing the ring advantages of combining the skills of Neidhart and Hart. The strategy is simple yet effective: Send the Anvil in to wear down the opponent,

pounding as he goes with bone-bruising forearms and lung-crushing bearhugs—then release the Hit Man to make the pin. The attack is very similar to that of boxing sensation "Iron" Mike Tyson. Like Tyson, the Anvil works the body with devastating effect, gradually wearying his opponents to the point where they are sometimes incapable of making the tag. At times like this, the Hit Man enters and delivers a blow that is frequently unseen.

"I'm the one who lowers the boom," mouths the brooding Hart. "He's the Anvil, and I hit like a hammer."

Fans will have to agree. The Hit Man is most definitely the technician of the team. Considering his background, it stands to reason. You can't grow up with a father like Stu Hart and enter the ring without an advantage.

"I'm more aerial than my dad," comments Hart, a statement that points to a simple but cruel truth. Neidhart and Hart have put together one of the most vicious two-man moves in wrestling today, a move that joins the Anvil's gorilla-like strength with the Hit Man's aerial precision in a perfect marriage.

"It's a Hart Attack, man," blurts the hulking Anvil before going off on one of his hyena-like laughs.

Bret explains, "This move was a natural for us. It works like this: Jim goes in and stuns them with his handsome mug...."

"Just like I stunned Moolah on that romantic evening," quips the sunglassed Neidhart before launching into hysteria over his memories of the date he won with female superwrestler the Fabulous Moolah on WWF's televised *Dating Game*. (Details of the Neidhart-Moolah date are still unknown. Neither party is talking.)

"Yeah, Jim goes in," continues Hart, "and he locks whichever wimp is in the ring into one of his bearhugs. Then he lifts the guy up so I can hit him Hit Man style."

Once the Anvil elevates the opponent so that his neck is exposed, the Hit Man comes off the turnbuckle or the ropes and catches the doomed wrestler in what might best be described as the ultimate clothesline. The Hit Man's momentum takes both Neidhart and their victim to the canvas for the pin. The Hart Attack is a lightning fast, cruel maneuver that is symbolic of this tag team's fighting attitude.

What does manager Jimmy Hart think of that attitude? "Hey, baby," squeals Hart, "whatever it takes. All the other teams are aware of the power they're facing when they step into the ring with these guys. The Hart Foundation is the baddest team going.

"You should see what I have to do to control these guys," shouts the Mouth. "First they grill me to the nth degree about who their opponents are. Then they want details on previous matches, analyses of style—these guys make me work!

"But actually," says Hart, lowering his voice, "I'm happy to do it. If I weren't able to offer some strategic skills, these dudes would be all over me like dots on dice."

The Mouth speaks the truth. One of the ways in which Hart has been able to successfully manage the Foundation is by preparation and obtaining information about the enemy. But he also knows that discipline is the edge that could take his boys to the coveted WWF Tag Team Title.

While running a calloused hand through his greasy hair, Bret Hart snapped his jaws like a wolf at the mention of the WWF Tag Team Title

"Look, we've beat the Bulldogs—where is the belt? We've squashed the Bees, and Spivey and Rotundo. All we're really looking for is competition."

Competition has become a problem for the Harts. Their gutsy, slashing style has earned them fear, if not respect, from previous opponents. That only leaves one option open: Go against the monster teams.

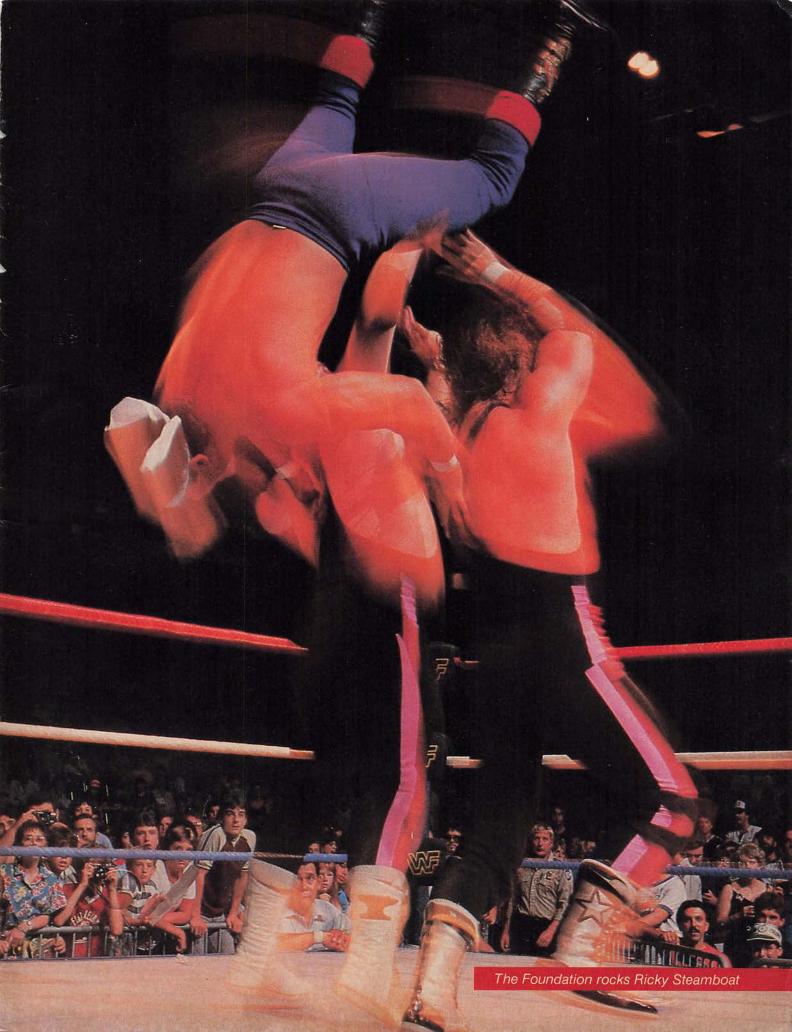
"I like big men," says the demented Anvil. "They make more noise when they fall."

"Whatever we give away in size and strength, we make up for in speed," spits the Hit Man. "And as we've said before, we take no prisoners. Jim and I have an allout attitude. No exceptions."

It is precisely this attitude that has made the Hart Foundation what it is today: a vicious, human bulldozer. Surprisingly, Jimmy Hart has been able to control that bulldozer so that its wild savagery is channeled at opponents. Maybe no other manager in the WWF could do it as well.









WWF INTERVIEW

ATalk With:

BILLY JACK HAYNES

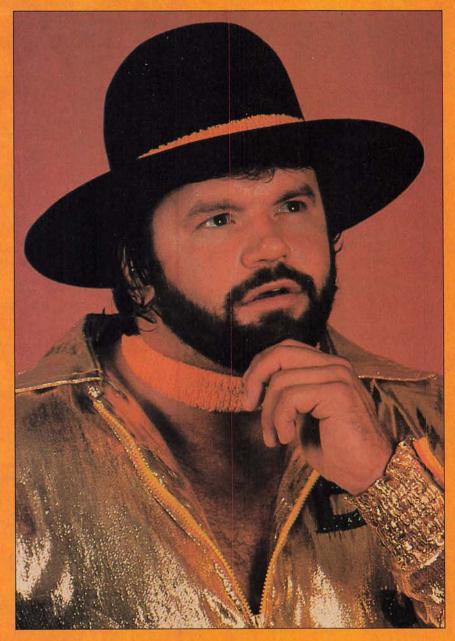
by Carol Buffin

As rough and ready as they come, Oregon's Billy Jack Haynes is a popular young grappler with some thoughts to share. Here he replies to questions about his wrestling technique, ambitions and how he looks at life in general.

wwf: When did wrestling first become a part of your life?
Haynes: I was a roughhouser all my life. I was an amateur boxer, but I have no amateur wrestling background. I'm street-wise with my fists, but I had to learn wrestling the hard way by jumping right in as a pro. I've been a pro for about four years this past August.

wwf: Why is it that you don't have a manager, and have you ever considered having one?

Haynes: Absolutely not. I believe that, for my style of wrestling, I don't need a manager. I believe in nose-to-nose and toes-to-toes. There are times when I'm wrestling a man and I may have him hurt and his manager will interfere or



cause some harm to me. But, I would rather go it alone. I don't need anybody else on the side.

WWF: In what ways do you differ from most of your opponents?

Haynes: I feel that my physical conditioning is the difference.

Although many wrestlers in the World Wrestling Federation are in great shape, I pride myself on working out five or six days a week.

I also like to run up stairs at the hotels. I'll go up stairs as fast as I can for 15 minutes to a half-hour—whatever feels right. Then I stretch out, take a shower and feel great. I know my endurance is up. And I feel that, since I was in boxing before I got into wrestling, I have a real strong ring sense. I

know when I've got an opponent hurt, and I try to cover up the best I can when I'm hurt. Sometimes that's hard to do. But, the endurance brings you up off the mat. If you're out of shape, you'll stay down. But, if you're in shape, you can take the pounding and come back up to absorb more and give it out yourself.

WWF: What would you be doing now if you hadn't discovered wrestling?

Haynes: I probably would be very unhappy because the most money I ever made was five bucks an hour before I got into wrestling. I never used my noodle. I've always been an athlete, but I'd let success slip through my

My father always taught me respect for other people. I was the kind of guy in school who would get in a fight because sombody might be picking on a kid who had dirty clothes, or who had a little problem with his speech, or who wasn't as good-looking as somebody else.

fingers. I didn't have enough initiative or drive or self-esteem to apply myself to it until I was in my mid-twenties. Then I got into bodybuilding, and the bodybuilding brought me right into wrestling. **WWF:** What do you miss about

Oregon?

Haynes: I miss my dad and my family. My dad's blind and in a nursing home. My roots are back there in Oregon. That's why I have "Oregon" on my jacket and on my trunks. I don't want my family to ever think I've left them behind. I'll always remember that I got my start and my break in Oregon. I don't ever want to forget that.

WWF: What one person would you most like to meet?

Haynes: I would like to meet Diana Ross. I've watched her career since I was a kid and, in every one of her interviews, she seems to be down-to-earth and human. I've never met her or seen her in concert myself, but I love her music, and I love the way she is with people. And basically, that's the way I try to be, too, because I realize that I was down on the bottom without a penny to my name before I got into pro wrestling, and my hand's out to everybody because I am no better than anybody else. We're all in it together. **WWF:** Finish this sentence: Billy

Jack Haynes is a man who... Haynes: Billy Jack Haynes is a man who loves his family, who loves life, who gives 100 percent every night in the ring and outside of the ring and who will never make an excuse. I don't smoke, drink or take drugs, so if I lose a match, I lose it on my own. I will not make an excuse for anything. If I lose, I lose. If you snooze, you lose. But, above all, however far I go in the World Wrestling Federation, it will be natural and it will be my best effort-win, lose or draw. WWF: What social issue is

important to you?

Haynes: I love kids. Kids are our future, and you see too many kids that are beaten. Back in Oregon, I helped the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Commission for the Blind, Cerebral Palsy, American Diabetes and the

American Heart Association. I talked to kids about drugs. Now society is starting to really crack down on that, and I'm glad because drugs are taking over, man. They've got to do something right now. Young kids are smoking pot in school and popping pills. It's got to be stopped.

WWF: If you could come back in another life, who or what would you be?

Haynes: I would want to be myself again because I've worked out all facets of life over the years. I've learned the ups and the downs, and luckily I had the downs first because it makes the ups a lot more pleasant. We were a pretty poor family. My dad worked his butt off for his kids, but we were basically pretty poor. My mother died when she was 39 and we were just in our early teens.

I'm not in professional wrestling only for the money. If I can be comfortable through life and open a gym someday, I'll be satisfied. But other than that, I'm not out to make a million dollars. If I can keep my head above water and be happy, that's the No. 1 thing to me.

WWF: What would you like to change about yourself?

Haynes: I'd like to change some of the stupid things I did when I was younger—thinking I was doing the right thing, and not. In my early teens, I thought that I was always right. Everybody else was trying to tell me I was wrong, but no one could change my mind. And when I look back on that and the way I was then, I wish I could change that. But I guess it was a learning process.

WWF: What would you not

change?

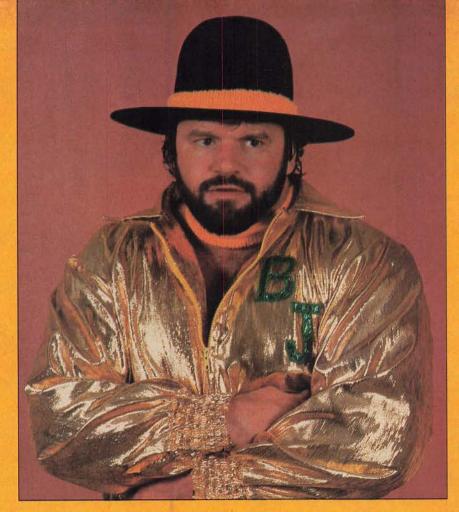
Haynes: My father always taught me respect for other people. I was the kind of guy in school who would get in a fight because somebody might be picking on a kid who had dirty clothes, or who had a little problem with his speech, or who wasn't as good-looking as somebody else.

WWF: How do you determine strategy in a match?

Haynes: To me, strategy is the easiest part of wrestling. It's like playing a game of chess.

www. You're the master of the full nelson. Why do you use that hold? Haynes: I met a pro wrestler by the name of Stan Stasiak, who was a World Wrestling Federation Champion years ago. He took me

Ring strategy means you should try to wear down your opponent. I work on his neck area and try to weaken it, so when I put the full nelson on, his neck is already hurting.



on the side when I first broke into pro wrestling, and he told me to turn around. So, I turned around and he put this full nelson on me. He asked if I could break that, and I tried to break it. I didn't know how, and I couldn't get out of it. Then he said to put it on him, so I did. He couldn't break mine either, and he couldn't believe it. He tried everything to get out of it, but he couldn't. So he suggested that I use the full nelson because I have very strong hands. My grip is my strongest asset. I always lifted with my hands, and it's a developed natural strength.

Ring strategy means you should try to wear down your opponent. I work on his neck area and try to weaken it, so when I put the full nelson on, his neck is already hurting and, therefore, bango—he gives up. When I use the full nelson, I try to get my hands up high above my opponent's head and push his chin down against his chest, which stops the blood flow to the brain. The referee has to be watching real close because, if a man is ready to pass out, the

ref has to be the judge of when to halt the match.

There's a lot of technique behind the full nelson. You keep your elbows in and use your body weight against the opponent's body. When his neck goes down, automatically his weight goes forward. So you push down, and your weight goes up and on him, too. If you had your head way back and your body weight wasn't on him, it wouldn't be nearly as effective.

So, not only do you need the strength to put the hold on, you use the technique and your weight, too.

wwf: How do you prepare yourself for a ring confrontation? Haynes: I know when to adrenalize myself, and that's in the ring. I try to set myself up an hour before a match so I can start preparing for it mentally. I don't think about it for four or five hours, then warm up, go out and wrestle. I think about it now.

First, you have to want to beat your opponent, of course, but you have to be completely warmed up I'd like to beat Randy Savage. To me, Randy Savage has everything that a professional wrestler needs. He's got the body. He's got a big mouth, but the guy backs it up. He's strong and fast. I can't see anybody beating him in the future. It'd be a very big thrill for me if I could win the Intercontinental Championship. That's my goal.

when you go in the ring, too. But, you don't want to exercise for an hour before you go out there. You'll feel good going to the ring but, after five minutes into the match, you'll be so tired that you won't know what hit you. You've got to warm up just to a peak and then go right away.

wwF: Have you set goals for your-

self in the WWF?

Haynes: Wrestling is a 24-hour thing with me. I'd like to beat Randy Savage. To me, Randy Savage has everything that a professional wrestler needs. He's got the body. He's got a big mouth, but the guy backs it up. He jumps from the top rope down onto the floor. He's strong and fast. And to me, I can see why he's the Intercontinental Champion. I can't see anybody beating him in the future. Maybe there's someone who can, but Savage can get himself disqualified real easy, too. But, before I came to the World Wrestling Federation, I had my eyes on Randy Savage. It'd be a very big thrill for me if I could win the Intercontinental Championship. That's my goal. WF



SOUNDINGOFF.

ON WOMEN'S LIB



By Randy Savage

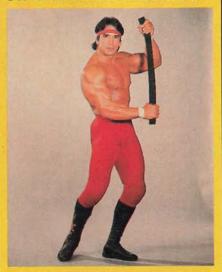
eople say I don't like freedom for women. Hey, I'm the Macho Man. I've got nothing to be afraid of from women, brother. I think they should be free. Free to do all the things women are supposed to do. Like dress pretty. And keep quiet, unless to say something nice to their men—or unless a man asks them to say something. I think women should be free to cook, clean up the house, have babies —whatever. See, I'm not against women having rights.

It's all right for a woman to speak her mind, as long as it's to other women and she doesn't say anything bad about her man. A woman has the right to pay attention to her man and nobody else. She has the right to dress the way he likes. She has the right to listen to him when he wants to talk—and to do what he says. Do it right away.

Woman are great. I like women. I like having them around, as long as they don't get uppity and try to say something smart or do something different than I want.

I try to help women all the time. What is a woman but a reflection of man? If a woman is around me, I'll let her bask in my glory. So anybody who says that the Macho Man doesn't appreciate women doesn't know how to handle them.

ON THE MARTIAL ARTS



By Ricky "The Dragon"

ome people say the martial arts have no place in the wrestling ring. Well, that's not true. Professional wrestling in the WWF is the ultimate form of one-on-one athletic confrontation. Many of the martial arts include scientific grappling techniques that belong in WWF wrestling. We are the best, so why not use all that we know? I think wrestlers who complain about the martial arts are just afraid. Martial arts aren't magic. They are just another form of hand-to-hand combat. Western wrestlers use leg sweeps. Oriental fighters use the "greater outer reaping sweep." That's a move from judo. It works in judo; it can work in the wrestling ring. Just because it has an Asian name doesn't mean it's not fair.

Even if they outlawed the martial arts in the ring, I'd still practice them in private. Martial arts are good for your head. They teach you patience, concentration and how to forget pain. They stress your mind and body, like pumping iron does, but in a different way. And martial arts are part of my heritage. I say the martial arts belong in professional wrestling.

ON BEING FAT



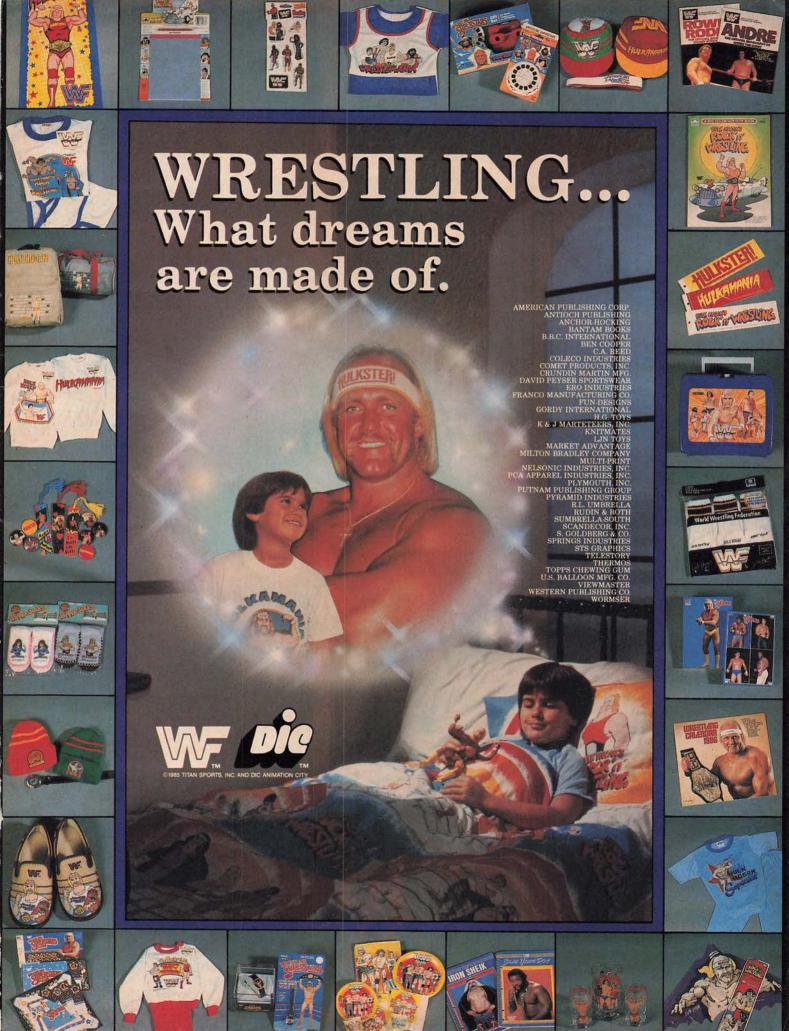
By Captain Lou Albano

ig is beautiful. But I want you to know, brothers and sisters, there are different ways of being big. Andre the Giant is big, plain big. Hulk Hogan is big. His muscles are big. His abilities are big. His heart is big. And Captain Lou Albano, the greatest manager of all time, is big, too.

Just look at me. Have you ever seen anyone bigger around the middle? Have you ever heard a bigger mouth? Well, there are different kinds of being big. But no matter what kind, being big is better than being little. People pay attention to you when you're big. You're noticed.

Some people say that my kind of big is dumb. "Too fat," they say. Well, I want to say that fat is the best kind of big. There's an old Italian saying, "A man with a belly is a powerful, important man because it shows he doesn't have to work. Other people work for him."

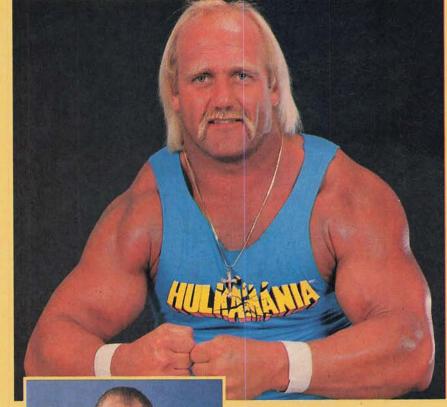
Look at my belly. It shows that I've had lots of people working for me. That's how I got to be the manager of 16 championship tag teams. My belly is my badge of success. How could I feed it if I didn't make lots of money? So, as far as I'm concerned, if people say I'm fat, it means that I'm smart, I'm successful and, because of that, I'm beautiful.



HULK AND The pros rate chai

n Paul "Mr. Wonderful" Orndorff, World Wrestling Federation Champion Hulk Hogan faces what many experts believe is the most dangerous and difficult challenge ever posed to his title. Seldom has the Hulkster been threatened by the combination of strength, aggressiveness, wrestling skill and ruthlessness that Orndorff possesses. Add to this the fact that Orndorff seems driven by a fanatic desire to humble the champion, and you have what shapes up as one of the most thunderous confrontations in WWF history. The two men are so evenly matched that predicting who will eventually end up triumphant is anybody's guess. Even veteran WWF observers and grapplers are reluctant to be quoted on their opinions in regard to the ultimate victor. However, several were willing to provide WWF Magazine with their views on the comparative strengths and weaknesses of the two men and speculate on how these assets and liabilities could influence the outcome of the battle. So, here's how the pros rate Hulk Hogan and Paul Orndorff:

Bruno Sammartino: Hulk Hogan and Paul Orndorff are two of the finest wrestlers and best-conditioned men ever to face off in the ring. When they go at each other, it will be a battle of super athletes. One main difference I see, however, is size. Hulk has the edge here. At 303 pounds, he has about 50 pounds on Orndorff. Besides that, Hogan has the reach. Orndorff, on the other hand, is probably as strong as the champion, so Hulk won't be able to rely on his superior bulk to



Bruno Sammartino:
"When they go at each other it will be a battle of super athletes. One main difference is size. Hulk has about 50 pounds on Orndorff. Hogan, with the crowd on his side, is one of the most courageous men ever."

ORNDORFF np and challenger



Johnny V.: "I don't like Hogan. He's got a lot of people fooled, but most people are too blind to see that. Hogan gets away with stuff that would get other wrestlers disqualified. Against Orndorff, he'll need all the help he can get. Hogan will lose."

Johnny V.

overpower Orndorff. As far as reach is concerned, Orndorff has the speed to move in on Hogan, so greater reach might not be a big advantage. In the end, I think it'll come down to who can absorb the most punishment and keep on fighting. In other words, the man with the most heart will win.

Orndorff is tough, but Hogan—especially with the crowd on his side—is one of the most courageous men ever to enter the squared circle. That just might make the difference.

Johnny V.: I don't like Hogan. I think he's got a lot of people fooled. He's as much out for himself as anyone, but most people are too blind to see that. They include WWF officials, especially referees. Hogan gets away with stuff that would get other wrestlers disqualified. That is one big plus for him. But, against Orndorff, he'll need all the help he can get. Orndorff is a much better technical wrestler than Hogan. And Orndorff has the desire. I think Hogan's too comfortable. He's overconfident. He may say he's training hard, but deep down I'll bet he thinks he'll blow Orndorff away. And that's why Hogan will lose.

The Junk Yard Dog: The Hulkster, he's my friend, my brother. I think he's gonna whomp and tromp on Orndorff. Hulk got caught in the piledriver once, but only because Orndorff played sneaky. Stabbed Hulk in the back. No way is Hulk gonna get caught like that again. This time, the big Hulkster is ready for that traitor. Only one thing, though. Hulk has gotta keep on Orndorff all the time. Not let him get any rest. Wear him out. And

28 Captain Lou Albano:

"There's never been a champion like Hulk. Nobody's in better shape, physically and in his heart. I think the Hulkster's got some surprises for that rat, Orndorff. Hulk will enter the ring prepared. Orndorff had better be ready."



The Giant John Studd:
"I've been up against
Hogan. The man is
not the wrestler that
Paul is. Orndorff is
much better. Paul'll
give Hogan an
education in scientific
wrestling. Orndorff's
got more guts. The
match will come
down to a real war."

especially not let (Bobby "The Brain") Heenan interfere. So long as he does that, Hulk'll stay champion.

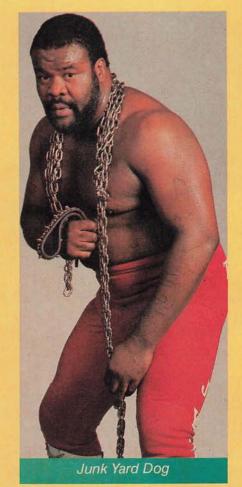
The Giant John Studd: I've been up against Hogan. I know his ring style maybe better than anyone. Sure, he's big. And strong. But in my book the man is not the wrestler that Paul is. Orndorff is much better technically than Hogan. Paul'll give Hogan an education in scientific wrestling. And Paul's tougher. Deep down, Orndorff's got more guts. The match will probably come down to a real war, toe-to-toe. That's what Orndorff wants. Because he won't quit, and I think Hogan will.

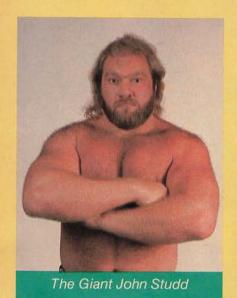
Captain Lou Albano: There's never been a champion like Hulk. He may not be the best technical wrestler in the world, but nobody's in better shape, physically and in his heart. The Hulkster has got a fighting spirit. He doesn't give up. I think that's his greatest advantage against Orndorff. And I think the Hulkster's got some surprises for that rat, Orndorff. You might see some new moves, new tactics.

The Junk Yard Dog:
"The Hulkster, he's
gonna whomp and
tromp on Orndorff.
Hulk got caught once
because Orndorff
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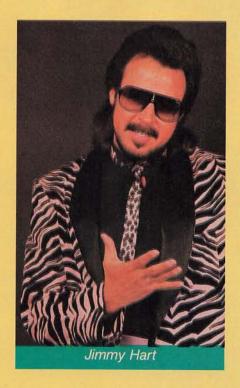
Hulk will enter the ring prepared. Orndorff had better be ready for the unexpected.

Jimmy "Mouth of the South"
Hart: Hey, baby, I know Hogan's
got muscles. I know he's beaten
everybody. But this time it's
different. Orndorff has got all the
physical goods. He's got muscles,





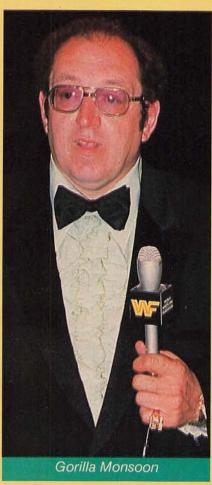
Jimmy Hart: "Hey, baby, I know Hogan's got muscles. I know he's beaten everybody. But this time it's different. Orndorff has got all the physical goods. And he's smarter than Hogan. Orndorff's got the desire. Paul's gonna be wearing a new belt."



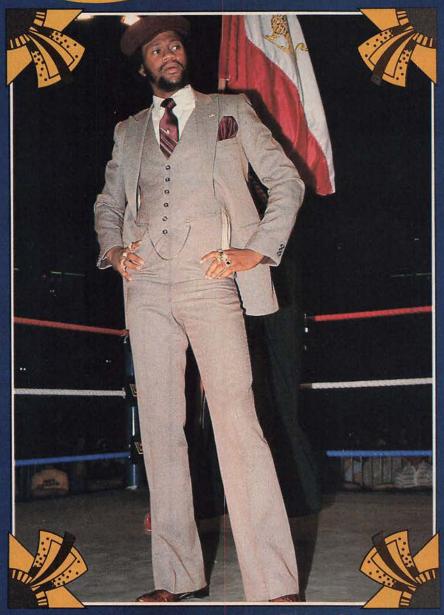
Gorilla Monsoon: "I can't predict a winner. It's too close. Hogan has proved that he can be out on his feet and still come back. But if Orndorff can set up Hogan for a solid pile-driver, it's all over. Hogan's got a great dropkick. And he knows his moves. It's a toss up."

too. And he's smarter than Hogan, especially with Heenan as manager. Most of all, Orndorff's got the desire. He says he's the uncrowned champion, and he believes it. I think Paul's gonna be wearing a new belt.

Gorilla Monsoon: I can't predict a winner. It's too close. It could go



either way. As I see it, Hogan will have to keep his wits about him more than ever before. Orndorff will pull out all the stops. He's going to throw away the rulebook. And with Heenan in the corner, that means double trouble for Hulk. He can't let down on his guard for a second. At the same time, he has to concentrate on his own tactics. That's a lot of head work in the middle of combat. Another thing—Hogan has proved that he can be out on his feet and still come back. But with Orndorff it's different. If Orndorff can set up Hogan for a solid piledriver, it's all over. Orndorff, on the other hand, is facing a man with immense reserves of strength and fortitude. The longer the match lasts, the less chance Orndorff has of winning. I also think a lot of people underestimate Hogan's technical ability and speed. It's because Hogan's so big, so imposing that it's easy to miss the subtleties. For a man of his bulk, Hogan's got a great dropkick. And he knows his moves on the mat, too. From my point of view, it's a tossup. WF



The Doctor Of Style is sharpening his scalpel.

By Keith Elliot Greenberg

e's never very specific about his past, but he makes it clear that he's spent time on the meanest of streets. Tall and lanky, with a silky strut, Slick is a man with a temper like fire and a heart like ice. Yet, when he talks about Freddie Blassie, the man with whom he co-manages the Iron Sheik, Nikolai Volkoff and Hercules Hernandez, his voice grows quiet and respectful. "Freddie Blassie is a man of character," he says, "a man of class, a man of intelligence, a man of honor, I'd trust him with my life."

Already he has trusted Blassie with a chunk of his fortune. In what was reportedly the largest deal in wrestling history, Slick bought half of Blassie's proteges. "He paid me with a check," boasts the white-haired mat veteran. "Was it good? Why, you pencil-necked geek, how can you even ask that question? Slick's money is better than the dollars in the U.S. mint. I love my proteges like sons, and Slick is the only man qualified to co-manage them with me. He has brains."

And several college degrees, Slick claims, without naming them. The subjects and schools are irrelevant, he insists, waving a wad of bills held in a diamond-studded money clip. "I didn't get all this money by being stupid. In fact, I am the most brilliant man in the world today - smarter than Einstein and smoother than Gandhi. Did you see the way those guys dressed? No class!"

As a youngster, he says, he wore his brightly colored three-



From left, Blassie, Volkoff, the Sheik and the Slickster

piece suits even on the basketball court. Today, he also sports flashy chains, watches, bracelets and rings. "I'm the dressiest man there is," he states. "If a suit is under \$1,000. I won't buy it. I'm the doctor of style. I even pay \$10 for

my hamburgers

Slick is banking on earning more bread by the Sheik and Volkoff recapturing the WWF Tag Team Title and Hernandez scoring an upset over Hulk Hogan. "I've bought whole neighborhoods with a shake of the dice." he says. "Getting those belts ain't even a gamble. My men will work hard for me because they know I'll be generous if they're good. Why, I once gave a baby a Rolls Royce

just to stop her from crying. She was 21 years old, that kid?

Naturally, he alleges that he is a ladies' man. "All kinds of ugly women knock on my doors wanting a favor from Slick" he brags. "I tell them to fo find a jerk who peels potatoes for a living. Slick only has time for the beautiful." And how does he define "beautiful"? "A beautiful woman is one who has as much money as I do. That's why I'm still single

call himself, carries the trappings of what he sees as class. His walking stick is an example. Call it a cane, and he goes livid

"I do not own a cane," he says. "I carry a walking stick, as do all

men of leisure and wealth. And that's what I call myself, a man of class, leisure and wealth.

In reality, Slick does not have to call himself anything - the fans have enough names for the knave. Every time he swaggers to the ring, their insults cascade on him like wedding rice.

During a Madison Square Garden match, Slick flew into a blind rage when an observer shouted, "I bet that suit cost you \$19.99!" So infuriated was the manager that he momentarily lost track of the bout in the ring -

He has a long way to go before he becomes a professional," longtime referee Jack Lotz commented



later. "A wrestler or a manager should only have his mind on what's happening on the mat. If he lets the fans' taunts bother him, his success record is going to be pitiful.

Slick, who entered the arena in a powder purple suit, matching loafers, scarlet socks and a white fedora, may be taking lessons in tasteful dressing from Blassie, who that night was attired in a garish gold lame outfit.

After a conference outside the ring, Blassie returned to the dressing room, leaving Slick to call the shots from ringside and raising speculation that the aging adviser may be taking a backseat in the careers of Hernandez, Volkoff and the Sheik

Like Jimmy Hart, Slick has no professional wrestling background, yet provides a very effective presence. The two managers have the natural ability to distract referees and fluster their charges' foes.

In his match, however, Slick's pestering seemed to fire Haynes up. He whipped Hernandez into the ropes and clotheslined him as he rebounded off. The resilient

Hercules rose to go chest to solid chest with his popular adversary. After the bearded badman threw a punch, he encountered a flurry of fists, a kneedrop, two dropkicks and a snapmare. As the Garden roared happily, Slick vented his anger on television commentator Gorilla Monsoon, who he said was broadcasting false news to the millions at home.

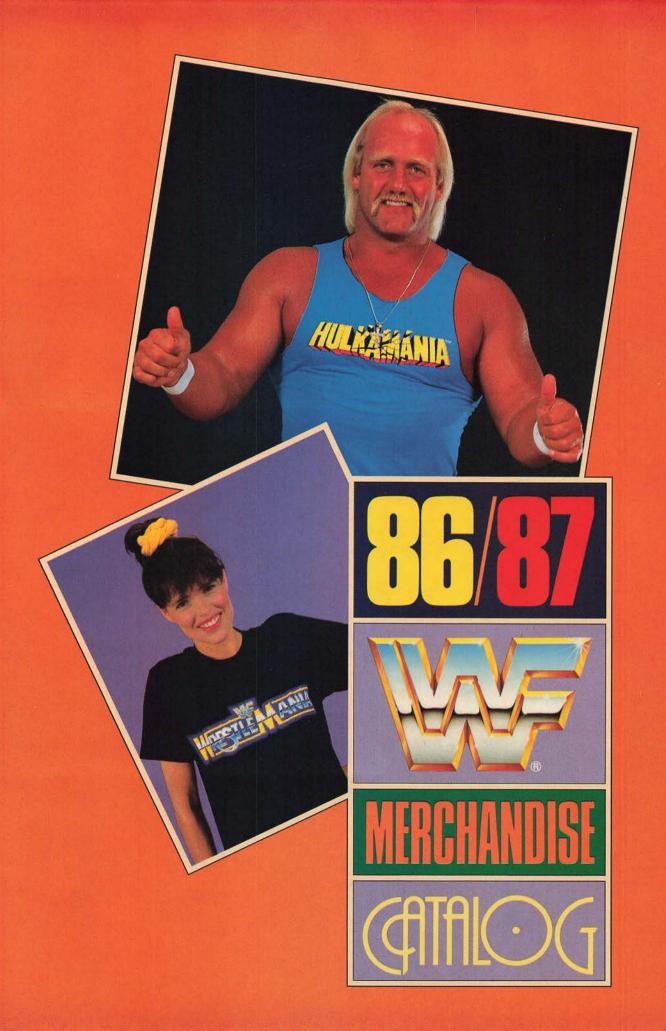
"Come on Hercules, he ain't nothing!" Slick coached, and the words apparently worked. The battle spilled outside the ring, where a bleary-eved Hernandez tossed Haynes into the hard metal gate. "Put the chair on him, baby!" Slick encouraged, Hernandez obediently crushed the edge of a folding chair into Haynes' neck.

Between the ropes. Haynes let the momentum of the crowd carry him back. After being tied up in a pin combination for a two-count, he reversed a Hernandez suplex and bodyslammed the angry warrior from the second rope. "You're the best man!" Slick yelled at his protégé, although he looked as if he was going to cry.

The bout continued to go back and forth. A grunting Hernandez held onto the second rope as he stepped on Haynes' neck. Billy Jack chopped Hernandez and kneelifted him. When the fan tavorite applied his trademark full nelson, Slick grabbed his client's leg and pulled him out of the ring By the time Hernandez regained the ring, the time limit of the bout expired

Still, Slick and Hernandez scored a mental triumph. Havnes was left frustrated, his source of ire vanked away from him while the adrenalin was pumping. "We psyched that fool out," Slick hooted. "We'll come into the next bout with the odds on our side!"

Hernandez nursed his bruises in buoyant spirits. He pointed out that his physique has improved since Slick arrived, and he has more incentive than ever before. No one needed to question the cause of that incentive, as Slick peeled a few hundreds from his moneyclip and told his protegé to get himself a hot dog. WF







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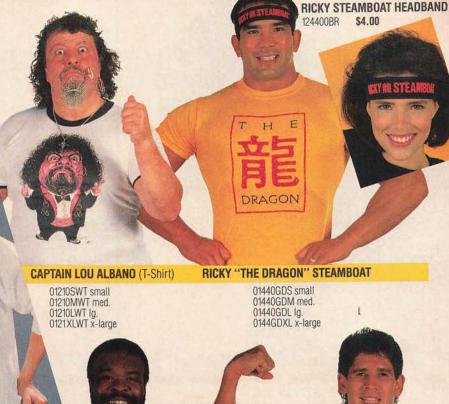
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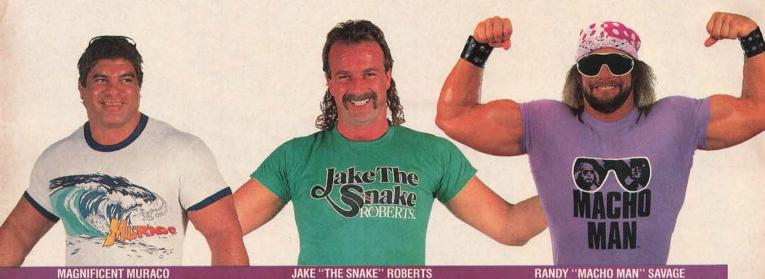
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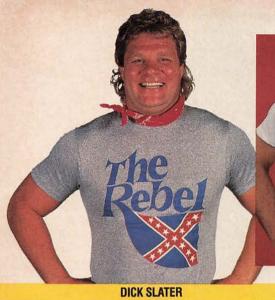


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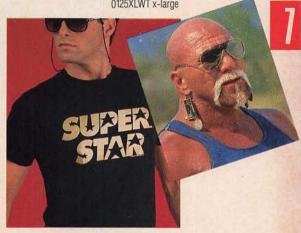
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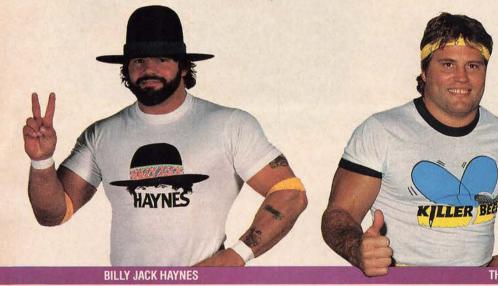
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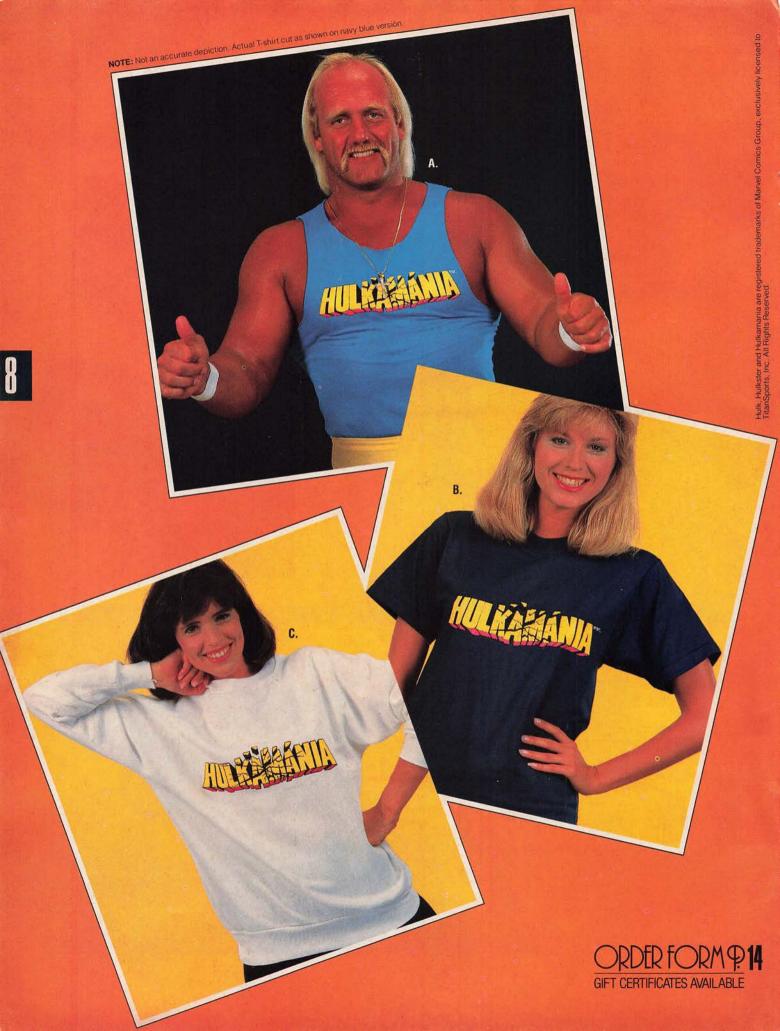
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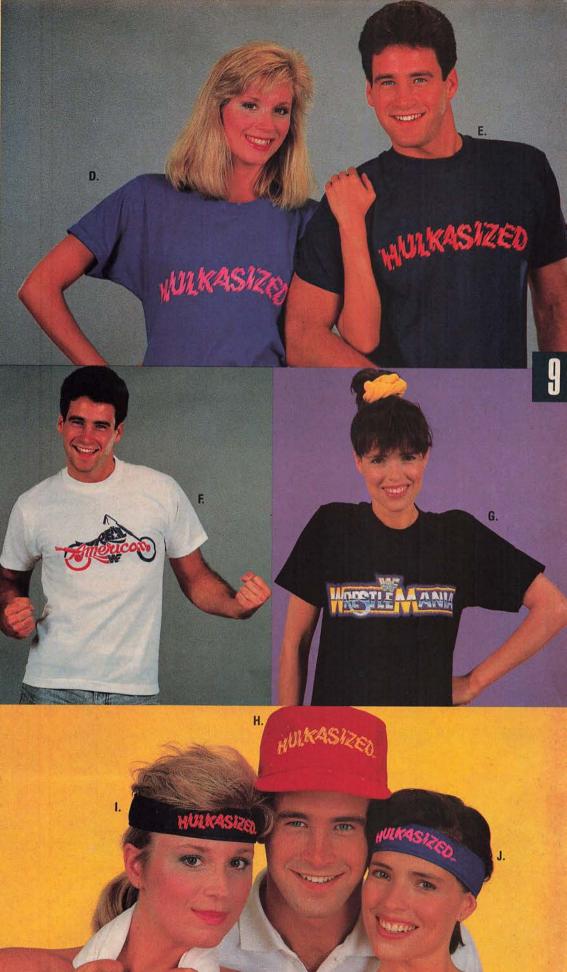
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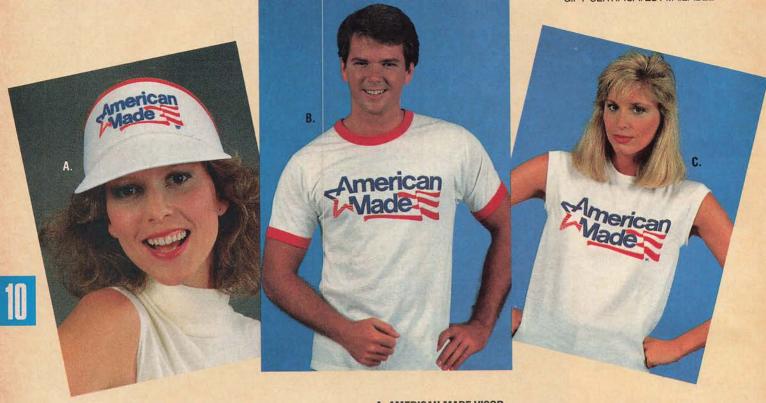
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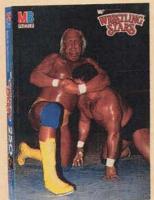
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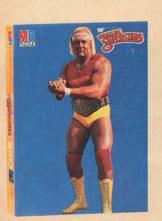
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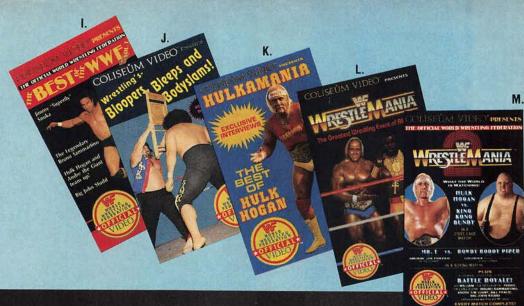
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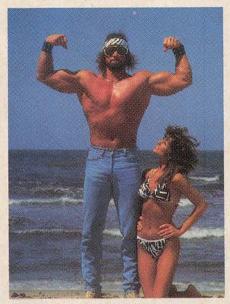
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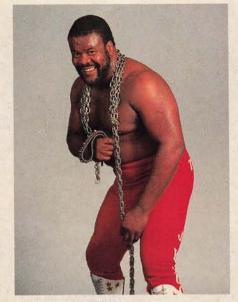
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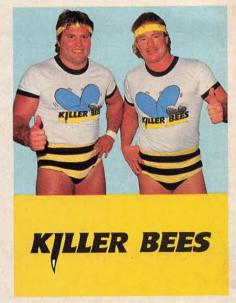
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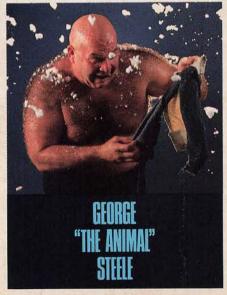
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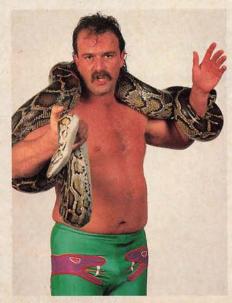
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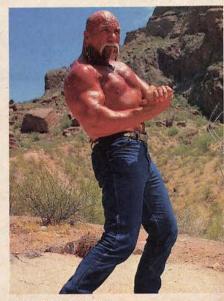
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	Wrestlemania T-Shirt	01420SBK small	\$11.95			Andre 32 oz. Mug	23083200	\$ 7.95	
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	Hulkasized Headband (navy band)	120500NB	\$ 3.95			Randy & Elizabeth Poster	04232900	\$ 3.95	
	Hulkasized Headband (cobalt blue)	120500TQ	\$ 3.95	m jek		Junk Yard Dog Poster	04310000	\$ 3.95	
	American Made Visor	14350000	\$ 9.95			Elizabeth Poster	04290000	\$ 3.95	
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	Bloopers, Bleeps, Bodyslams Video	24490000	\$59.95	1		Greg Valentine Doll 8" size	08170000	\$11.95	
	Wrestlemania Video Cassette	24420000	\$59.95			Brutus Beefcake Doll 8" size	08490000	\$11.95	
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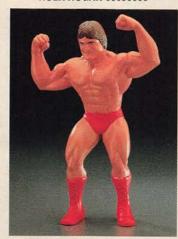
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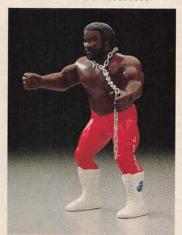
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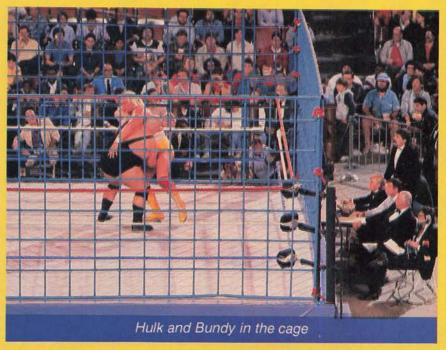




ACTS OF COURAGE

ome issues ago, we brought you our choices for the dirtiest tricks played in the World Wrestling Federation ring. We've shown you our selections of the worst—now for the best. Here are the editors' choices for the finest moments of sportsmanship and courage in recent WWF history:

- 1. **Hillbilly Jim** vaults out of the seats and comes to the rescue of Hulk Hogan, who is triple-teamed by the forces of Bobby "The Weasel" Heenan and threatened with the indignity of having his hair shorn before a national television audience.
- 2. Savagely assaulted by the Magnificent Muraco before the bell in the opening match of this year's King of the Ring tourney, **Rowdy Roddy Piper** battles back from seeming defeat. Fighting on heart and instinct, Piper took savage

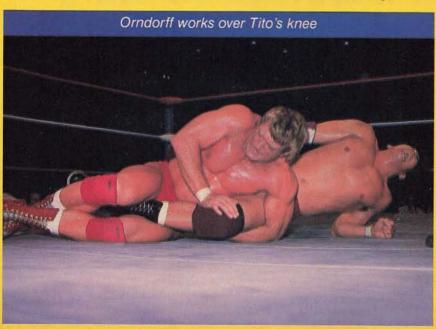


punishment but dished out all Muraco could stand. The bout ended in a double disqualification, but it was a moral victory for Piper.

3. His ribs hurting from a previous encounter with King Kong Bundy, World Wrestling Federation Champion **Hulk Hogan** agrees to

meet Bundy in a steel cage match during WrestleMania 2. Hogan weathers the big splash and avalanche, the most fearsome weapons in Bundy's arsenal, and emerges the victor.

- 4. **Tito Santana's** leg is injured by the Magnificent Muraco in an earlier round of the Wrestling Classic. Victorious over Muraco, Santana continues to take on Paul Orndorff despite the leg injury. The match degenerated into a brawl, and both men were disqualified; but Santana nevertheless demonstrated his bravery by disregarding the pain of his damaged limb.
- 5. Mean Gene Okerlund risks sanity by agreeing to help Captain Lou Albano cut living expenses on the road. Okerlund shares a vehicle and room with Albano on a four-week tour. Although exposed to continual high-decibel chatter and some of the grossest table manners imaginable, Okerlund keeps his end of the bargain and completes the trip.





TORONTO SHAKES IT UP!



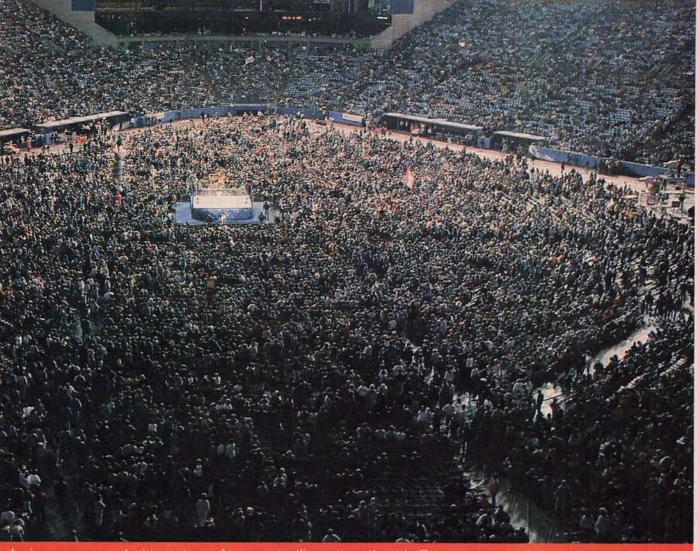
"The sport of the future" takes over Toronto's Exhibition Stadium with a record-breaking crowd of 70,000 cheering, screaming fans.

Only three times before has the stadium been sold out: for a performance by the rock group The Who and back-to-back appearances last year by Bruce Springsteen.

either the sports nor the entertainment business had ever seen anything like it. Nor had the booming city of Toronto, Canada. Nor, in fact, had the world. The largest crowd ever to witness a professional wrestling event—almost 70,000 people—crammed into Toronto's Exhibition Stadium to cheer and scream their hearts out as top World Wrestling Federation stars slammed, slugged and suplexed one another under a starry night sky.

"Now wrestling is the ultimate family entertainment," wrote *The Toronto Sun* sports columnist Jim Hunt the day following the August 28th WWF event.

"Forget rock concerts, country singers, killer trucks or the midway if you're talking rebirth of the Ex. Last night it was wrestling," proclaimed *The Toronto Star*. The assertation by *The Star* referred to the way the WWF spectacular "injected a pile-driver of excitement" into the Canadian National Exhibition, a mammoth annual fair



An immense crowd—biggest ever for pro wrestling—turned out in Toronto

held next to the stadium that has suffered a decline in attendance this past season.

The WWF card, which featured stars such as WWF Champion Hulk Hogan, Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat, the Magnificent Muraco, the Killer Bees and many more, was the best-attended sporting event in the city's history, far out-drawing the Exhibition Stadium attendance record of the Toronto Bluejays set during the American League East playoffs last year. The measure of the evening's success was that only three times before has the stadium been sold out: for a performance by the rock group The Who and back-to-back appearances last year by Bruce Springsteen.

Drawing some wider comparisons, the event outdrew the first NFL Superbowl, when the Green Bay Packers beat the Kansas City Chiefs, on January 15, 1967, in Los Angeles. And many World Series games have failed to match the WWF attendance tally for the night.

Up until a few hours before the ring bell first clanged, however, the weather threatened to literally put a damper on the evening. It had rained torrentially earlier in the week, and the sky remained gray. Rain showers gusted in off Lake Ontario, and the mercury sank to an autumn-like chill. But by late afternoon, the clouds vanished and the sun appeared. Caught in the sunlight, the steel-and-glass towers of Toronto's skyline gleamed to the east of the stadium.

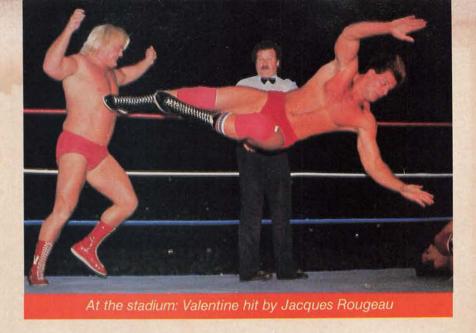
Perhaps never before had a wrestling card been promoted in a setting that was so scenic and charged with excitement. Immediately south of the stadium stretched the blue-green waters of Lake Ontario. A host of pleasure craft, moored in the stadium's

shadow, bobbed at their docks.
And surrounding the stadium were the midway and thrill rides of the Canadian National Exhibition.
Multicolored flags that festooned the Exhibition grounds snapped in the breeze. Carny barkers hustled their wares. And riders on the sky ride, roller coaster and ferris wheel could see the last-minute preparations for the evening's bouts underway far below on the stadium turf.

The crowd, some of whom had arrived outside the stadium in the morning, began to surge in as the late-afternoon sun dropped toward the horizon. Only the chilly temperature, which didn't seem to phase anyone, remained as a reminder of the inclement weather as the fans took their places in 20,000 seats set up on the field and 50,000 blue seats in the stands.

With the sky darkening, the

The excitement built up like molten lava boiling up toward the mouth of a volcano. Finally it erupted with thousands upon thousands chanting, "Hogan, Hogan, Hogan,"



brilliant white field lights blazed on, and the crowd began to hum and twitch with anticipation. Minutes passed, then the fans erupted with a thunderous cheer. The reason for the tumult was the appearance of WWF ring announcer Howard Finkel, resplendent in a black tuxedo and a signal that the opening action was only moments away.

Before the first match, however, Finkel introduced WWF television commentator and host Mean Gene Okerlund, who welcomed the Canadian crowd and told them that their presence was a "testimony to the success of the WWF." Wrestling history, he said, was occurring and "Canada is part of it."

Okerlund left the ring, and the night's matches began. From the moment the first grapplers locked up, the crowd was never silent. As the big men in the ring battered and tossed one another, muscles bulging with exertion and dripping sweat even in the cool weather, the crescendo of cheering swelled until it spilled out of the stadium into the surrounding night. "You can probably hear it across the lake in Rochester," quipped one dressing room observer.

The action could be seen on the huge Bluejays playback screen at the top of the stadium as well as live in the ring. Like giants

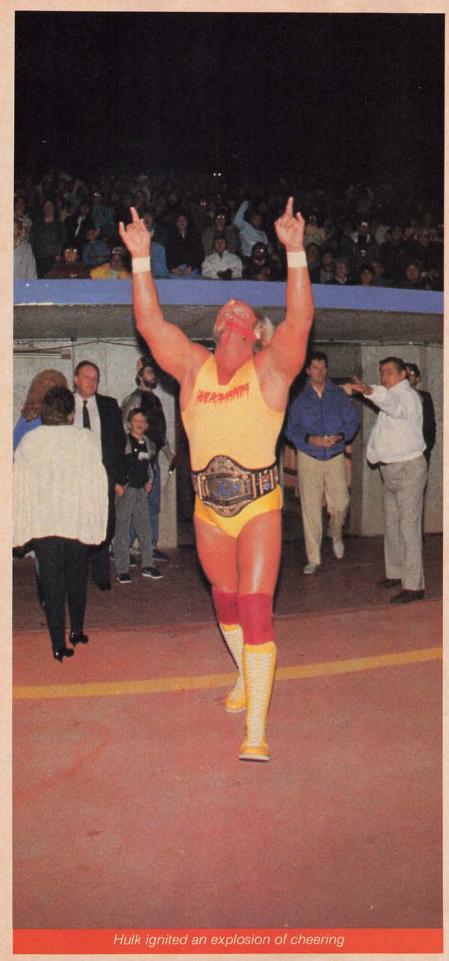


out of ancient legend, the magnified, illuminated figures of wrestlers such as King Tonga, Hercules Hernandez, Billy Jack Haynes, the Machines, King Kong Bundy and the Giant John Studd blazed on the screen against the black sky.

As the matches thundered on, the excitement built up like molten lava boiling up toward the mouth of a volcano. And, finally, it erupted with thousands upon thousands of voices chanting as one, "Hogan, Hogan, Hogan," The time had

come for Hulk Hogan's entrance into the ring.

While loudspeakers blasted out his *Real American* theme song, Hogan burst out of the dressing room. Snorting fire and crackling with intensity, he strode through the crowd up the aisle to the ring. Men, women and children reached to wave and touch him as he passed. The louder they cheered, the more Hogan's eyes glittered with enthusiasm, pride and commitment to his fans.



Hogan burst out of the dressing room. Snorting fire and crackling with intensity, he strode through the crowd. Men, women and children reached to touch him. Hogan's eyes glittered with enthusiasm, pride and commitment to his fans.

The multitudes who had come to support the champion were not disappointed. Between the ropes, Hogan was the epitome of a fighting champion, demonstrating the courage and determination that have made him loved and admired by fans around the world. By the time he returned to the dressing room a victor, the crowd was emotionally drained. Many sat limply in their seats before rising to join the masses filing out of the stadium.

The making of history was over. Even before the last fans had exited, crews were taking down the ring. The panorama of empty seats and silence provided a stark contrast to the scene of a few minutes before. Oddly, the contrast testified as much as all the earlier excitement to the significance of the night. Those seats had been filled with enough people to populate a major city. They had come in numbers like never before to witness a professional wrestling card. They had seen athletic endeavor that had brought them to their feet again and again. Now, the precedent-setting event was past—but not its meaning. Perhaps The Sun columnist Jim Hunt said it all the next day when he wrote, "Wrestling is the sport of the future." WF

BODYSLAM:

Whose is the Grandest Slam?

orilla Monsoon can't remember the referee's decision in his 1965 Boston Garden battle with Bruno Sammartino, but he remembers the bodyslams. "We were trying to destroy each other. Bruno would slam me, then I'd slam him. Both of us kept getting up off the canvas for more." At some point, the ring's foundation developed a crack, which opened wider with each thundering slam. "We were going at it and, all of the sudden, the ring fell apart under us. The fans lost sight of us as we went under." Sammartino and Monsoon returned to the dressing room for 45 minutes while the ring was repaired. Then, the slamming continued.

The bodyslam—every professional wrestler has felt it and executed it. It is one of the first moves taught in wrestling training. It has been around since before the days of Ed "Strangler" Lewis and has played an increasingly important role in the grappling game as the sport has progressed.

"The bodyslam did not really become a major factor in professional wrestling until the days of the super-heavyweights," expostulates Monsoon, a former 401-pound competitor who reminisces, observes and philosophizes from the announcer's table on World Wrestling Federation telecasts. "That would be the early '50s, with Man Mountain Dean using his excessive bulk to power opponents into the mat." Soon the ranks of world class slammers swelled, with men like Killer

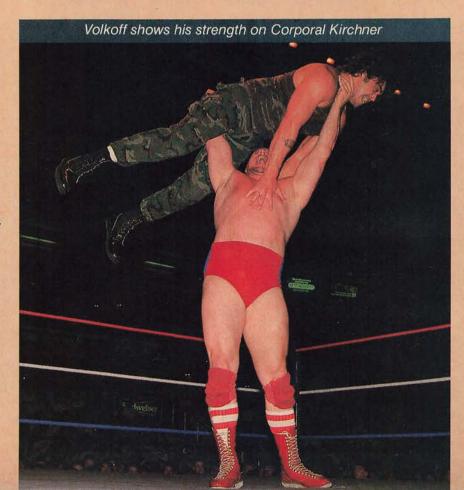
Kowalski, Don Leo Jonathan, Sky Hi Lee and King Curtis joining the mat wars. As time passed, former WWF champion Superstar Billy Graham and Black Jack Mulligan would distinguish themselves with the maneuver. In Japan, fans thrilled to Seiji Sakaguchi's slamming strengths. Says Nipponese journalist Wally Yamaguchi, "He'd rapidly rotate your head downward, forcing your legs to fly off the ground in the opposite direction. He'd grab your legs with his other hand and slam

you. It was very scientific."

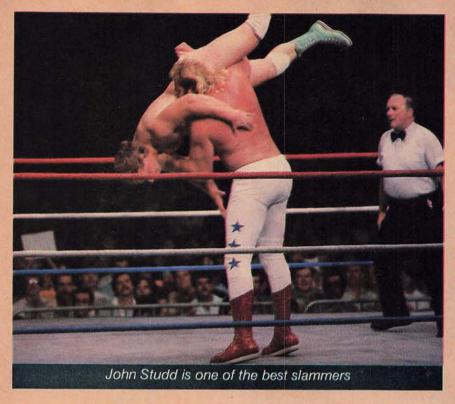
The bodyslam is rarely used to win a match. "It's not a hold you'd employ to beat an opponent," says Monsoon. "It's something you'd do to soften him up. It probably won't end his career. But it's one more hard blow to the body."

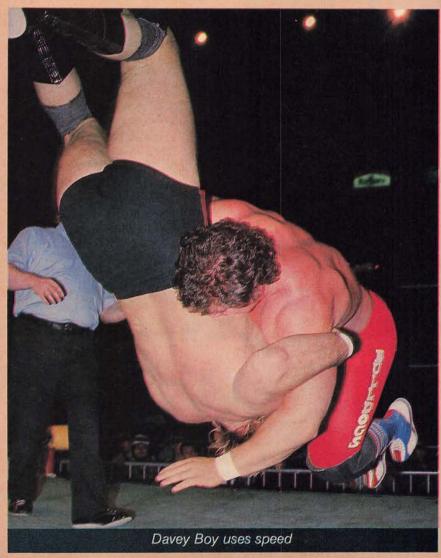
Handsome Harley Race claims the best slam to use as a finisher is the powerslam. "You pick up your opponent and throw your weight down on top of him."

He is also fond of the pressslam. "It has to be done right,



WWF Magazine December/January 86/87





though," he says. "If you're only thinking of strutting your stuff for the fans, you might pick a guy up over your head, throw him down and not do the damage of a weaker guy whose mind is on the match. The best way to execute a press-slam is to throw your rear out and your head forward when you toss your opponent."

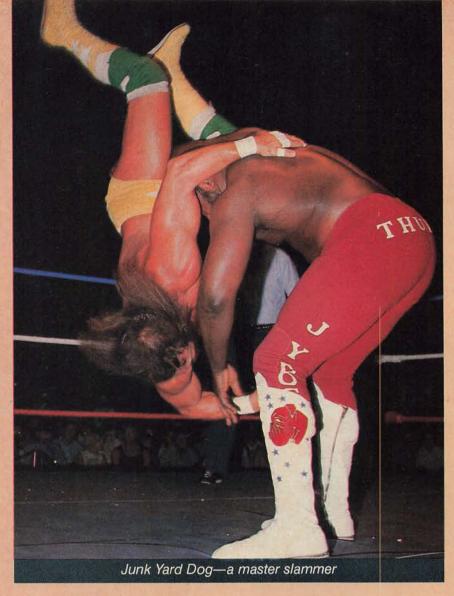
There are two traditional ways of bodyslamming, according to Edouard Carpentier, one of the best scientific wrestlers in history. The first is the standard under-the-crotch scoop and throw-down. For the other slam, Carpentier says, "take a running start, placing one hand on your opponent's hip and your other arm across his neck. As you twist his head toward the floor, lift him, keep running and throw him down."

Who does Carpentier think has the best bodyslam in the WWF? His French-Canadian neighbor, Raymond Rougeau, says Carpentier, "has the best technical bodyslam in the business.

"Raymond is one of the most scientific wrestlers in the world, and everything he does is by the book," adds Carpentier.

A.J. Petruzzi considers himself a bodyslam "expert." The native of Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, who seldom scores a pinfall, almost brags, "I've been bodyslammed by anybody who's anybody in the World Wrestling Federation." He claims the premier slammer is the Junk Yard Dog.

During one bout with JYD, Petruzzi made the mistake of trying to headbutt the man considered by many to be "the people's champion." "That was costly," he recalls. "JYD probably has the hardest skull in the sport." With his cranium pounding, a dizzy A.J. wandered around the ring, hands over his head. JYD stood back watching in amusement, then he whammed his opponent by returning a headbutt. A.J. fell to the mat but was quickly scooped up by the Dog. "I knew the bodyslam was coming - as out of it as I was," Petruzzi says. "He has that very distinct style. He kind of holds you tight and puts all his weight behind you." Petruzzi felt that weight as he



careened to the mat. Seconds later, his leg was hooked, and JYD had logged another triumph.

Carpentier believes that the taller the wrestler, the harder the slam the reason for his qualifying fellow Frenchman, Andre the Giant, as one the kings of the move. "When Andres lifts you, you're going to fall from 8 feet."

Bruno Sammartino agrees, citing Don Leo Jonathan as the best bodyslammer he ever faced. "Aside from Don Leo's vast technical knowledge, the reason his slams hurt so much was because he was 6 foot 7."

Claims Tito Santana: "A bigger guy can always give a better bodyslam than a smaller guy because of the drop."

Captain Lou Albano has a much different opinion: "Leverage and balance are more important than sheer size," he says.

Davey Boy Smith of the British

Bulldogs exemplifies his manager's words. During a battle with Brutus Beefcake. Smith was lifted for the slam by his larger opponent. In mid-air, Davey Boy managed to balance his thoughts as well as his body. He pressed his weight down on Beefcake, causing the tanned competitor to stumble. This was the opportunity Smith needed to slip from Beefcake's grasp, gaining a firm footing on the mat behind his foe. Smith kneedropped Brutus, then picked him up for the slam. Because he is not that heavy, Davey Boy doesn't favor pressing his weight against an opponent. Rather, as he did with Beefcake, Smith races across the ring, holding his adversary aloft, then hurls him to the mat. Beefcake banged the canvas and would likely have been pinned had not his partner Greg "The Hammer" Valentine interfered.

The wrestler who best blends

strength and speed when he slams is Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat, opines Miguel Alonso, play-by-play man on WWF Spanish broadcasts. Alonso gives honorable mention to the British Bulldogs ("they're very fancy"), Paul "Mr. Wonderful" Orndorff ("he's elegant") and Nikolai Volkoff ("he just picks them up and uses all his power to throw them down. Terrific.")

Race claims his version is worth merit. "When I lift my opponent up and turn him around, I make sure my head is between his knees.

Then I throw him with my weight horizontal to his."

Hulk Hogan, he contends, has the "wimpiest" slam in the WWF. "He's too busy posing. A real man is really going to hurt him one day."

Whatever Race says, many have tried and instead felt the heartiness of the Hulkster's wrath. No fan will ever forget the champion, still smarting from rib injuries suffered a few weeks earlier, lifting the mountainous King Kong Bundy at WrestleMania 2 and whacking him onto the canvas. The Giant John Studd, the man alleged to be unslammable, has also been sprawled out on a vibrating mat after experiencing Hogan's effectuation of the nearimpossible. "Studd always thought he was a better wrestler than Hogan," says one WWF insider. "Although he won't admit it, when Hogan slammed him, he gained more respect for the champion and found himself plaqued with doubt about his own abilities."

Mentally and physically, every wrestler must be prepared to be on the wrong end of a bodyslam. "Absorbing a bodyslam is as much an art as administering one," says Race. "You must know how to process the pain. After decades in the ring, I have the tolerance level of three individuals."

Monsoon claims there are two ways to land on the canvas. "There's the lucky way: without injury. And there's the unlucky way: with broken ribs, vertebrae and hip joints."

And then there's the ideal way of landing. "That's not letting anyone get you there in the first place."



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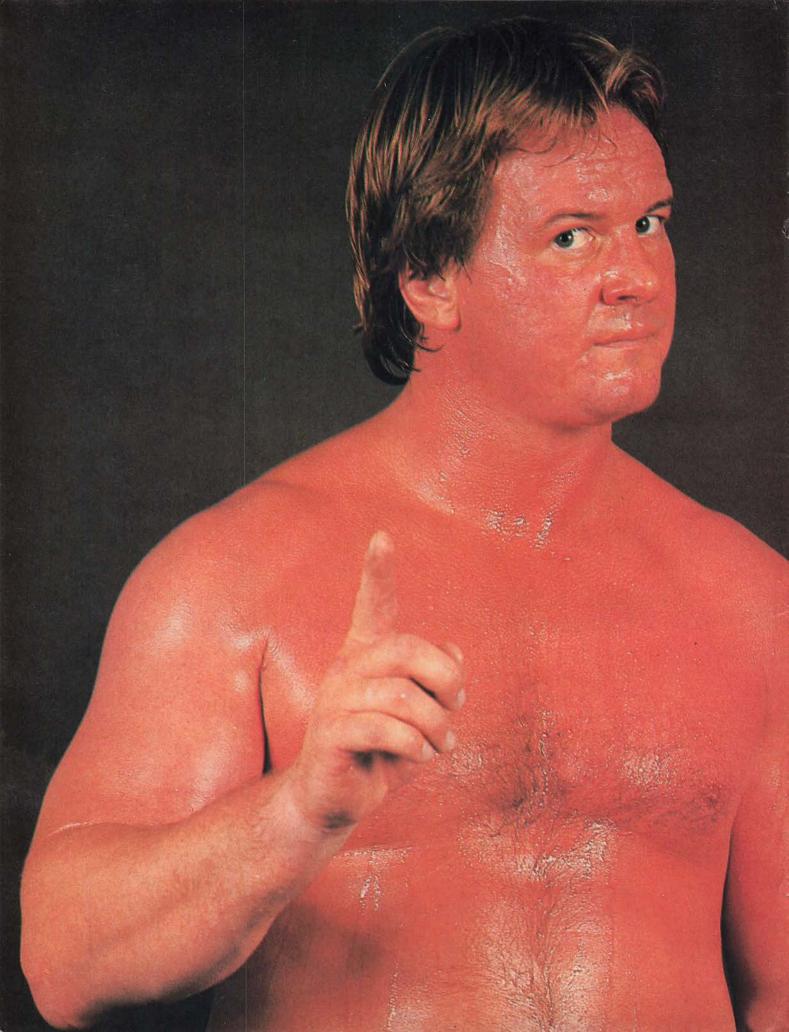
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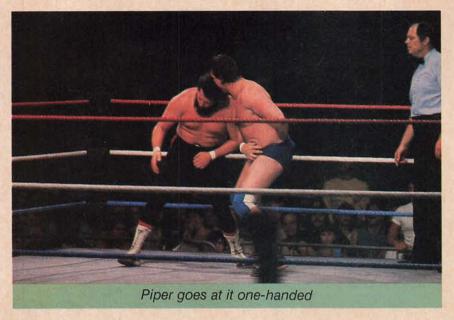
He seems to have a new approach to life, but he's rowdy as ever in the ring.

or reasons he will not disclose—"It's nobody's business"—Rowdy Roddy Piper had been out of the ring for a while. So, as a tuneup, he signed for a match with the journeyman grappler A.J. Petruzzi, no superstar but not one to be taken lightly. Given Piper's vast experience and ring know-how, the odds were all in his favor. Apparently, however, Petruzzi did not think so. Perhaps Petruzzi figured that, if he could make a fool out of the Rowdy One-the match was on national television a jump in the World Wrestling Federation ratings might be in store. Or Petruzzi might have thought Piper was going soft, since he seemed to be severing ties with many of his former associates, former allies and other old cronies known for their sleazy tactics in and out of the ring.

Whatever his reasoning, as the match opened, Petruzzi made a terrible mistake. He slapped Piper smack across the face. The blow stung Piper, but it caused no damage. No physical damage, that is. But Piper's fierce pride was direfully insulted. As the song says, you don't step on Superman's cape. Nor do you try to humiliate Roddy Piper.

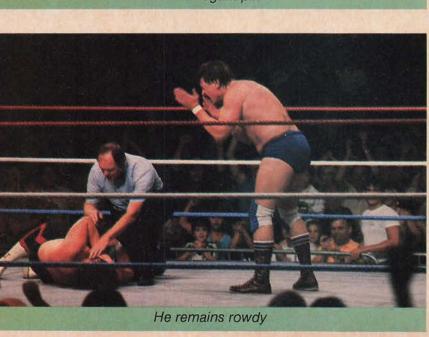
For a moment Piper stood stock still under the ring lights. First a look of disbelief crossed his face. Then his face flushed with rage. His eyes blazed like the pits of Hades. Suddenly realizing the enormity of what he had done, Petruzzi glanced nervously to either side, as if seeking a place to hide.

Still glaring, Piper slowly put his left hand behind him and stuck it in his trunks. Then he exploded with fury. Using only his right hand, he slapped Petruzzi viciously. Again and again Piper whacked the hapless Petruzzi, first with an open hand, then with a closed fist that made Petruzzi's face look like hamburger. Each time Piper struck, Petruzzi's body shook. Like a rabbit menaced by a cobra, Petruzzi made no move to defend himself. It was as if he knew his only hope was to endure Piper's vengeance



Using only his right hand, he slapped Petruzzi viciously. Again and again Piper whacked Petruzzi.





and pray it would end as quickly as possible.

Piper, for his part, was far from through. He pummeled and kicked Petruzzi senseless, then—as if he had searched for the ultimate indignity to inflict on his opponent—the Rowdy One blew his nose on his fallen victim. Petruzzi was clearly finished and Piper, finally satiated, went for the pin with sneering casualness by putting his foot on the prostrate Petruzzi and waiting for the referee to finish counting.

The Petruzzi massacre was clear evidence that some things simply don't change, one of them being that Rowdy Roddy Piper will always be a terror in the ring, however else he may act elsewhere. As for elsewhere, Piper has in fact shifted into another gear. Fans across the country witnessed the evolution and culmination of his split with his old colleagues and, consequently, everyone in their camp. Men such as Paul "Mr. Wonderful" Orndorff, Cowboy Bob Orton and the Giant John Studd now count Piper among their enemies. Friendless, he has made overtures to new allies, including even World Wrestling Federation Champion Hulk Hogan. That may imply a changed outlook on life for Piper but, as noted, when his dander gets up between the ropes, he remains a wild man. Push him a trifle hard, and he'll try to tear you apart.

As far as Piper's future is concerned, his rough-and-ready approach to the ring is a big plus. More than ever, he needs to be as tough as nails to survive. A band of wrestling cutthroats are after his scalp. And Piper, if anybody, knows



His future hangs in the balance

He pummeled and kicked Petruzzi senseless, then—as if he had searched for the ultimate indignity to inflict on his opponent—the Rowdy One blew his nose on his fallen victim.

what that means. No quarter given or asked. No prisoners taken.

If anybody doubts that Piper neither expects nor plans to show mercy on opponents, consider his recent assault on the Iron Sheik on Saturday Night's Main Event on NBC television. From the opening bell, Piper poured it on. With both men rocked several times, the tide of the battle shifted repeatedly. But against his fierce and powerful rival, Piper demonstrated a resolve like steel. He was pure Rowdy Roddy, a man where fury knew no bounds.

The beating of the Sheik, however, sowed even more hatred of Piper by former partners in villainy. Slick, who with Classy Freddie Blassie owns the stable of men that includes the Sheik, has vowed revenge on Piper. And the Slickster has plenty of people ready to help make that revenge sweet.

One way or the other, Piper is in for some tough sledding. The Hot Rod will need to be more rowdy than ever to survive.





Modah Wins

By Keith Elliot Greenberg

he hunched but hulking form of wrestling great Killer Kowalski was identifiable even at the far end of the dark corridor. Andy Paris, an usher at New England arenas for 45 years and a fan of the mat wars for much longer, watched with mouth hanging open. Kowalski got closer, his smirk illuminated by the light of an open dressing room door, his dark eyes staring determinedly ahead. From the other side of Andy, Lou Albano materialized, and the banter started.

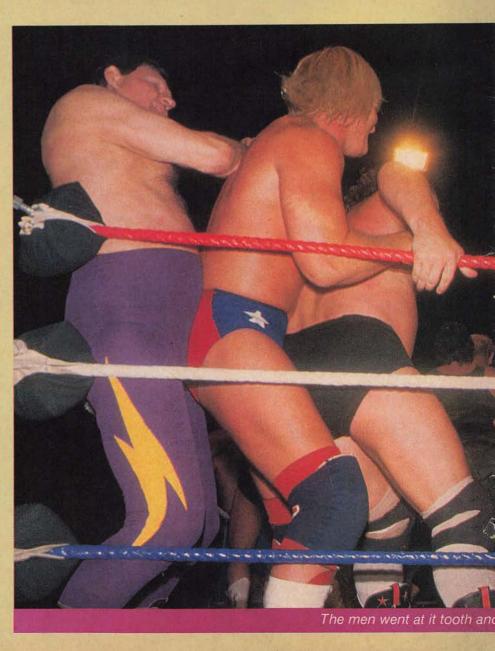
"Who's this rookie?" Captain Lou barked at his fellow fossil. "I wanna manage him."

"You're looking fit, Lou,"
Kowalski responded in his even,
horror-movie voice. "That's why
I'm throwing you out of the ring
first tonight."

"Think you can still lift me?"
Albano taunted, as Kowalski's shadow covered him. "Maybe you took an extra dose of Geritol today."

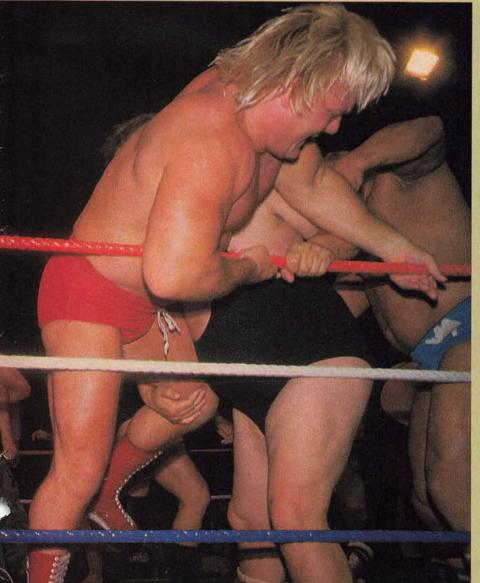
The hardened Kowalski allowed himself a smile, and the two old-timers exchanged affectionate pats as they passed. "Good luck in the Battle Royal tonight," Albano said.

"You'll need it," Kowalski replied, as he prepared for a Battle Royal featuring top stars of yesterday as well as wrestlers ranked among the best in the WWF today. Andy Paris shook his head and exhaled.



DIER

Battle Royal



nail, but Moolah triumphed

He has witnessed some of the sport's greatest moments: Jim Londos versus Milo Steinborn ("Londos, the king of the airplane spin, fooled Steinborn with a leglock and retained his champion-ship"); Antonino Rocca and Eduoard Carpentier ("a living textbook on scientific wrestling"); the Sheik of old against Bruno Sammartino ("it was evil against muscle").

Moments before the bell, Albano talked with reporters. "In my own personal opinion," he said, "Lou Albano is too old to win tonight. But there are men out there, like Mike Rotundo, Corporal Kirchner and Danny Spivey, whose careers I'd like to push along. These men are in the prime of their lives and, if I can help them win, I will."

Kowalski, who officially retired in 1977, was more optimistic about his prospects. He predicted exiting from the arena with the \$50,000 grand prize for the bout's winner. "The kids wrestling today - they're soft. None of them are as tough as the men of my day. I never thought I'd find myself talking like this because I hated the guy, but there isn't one person in the World Wrestling Federation who could beat Bruno Sammartino in his prime. No one knows that better than I do; Bruno and I had wars. But he was the toughest man I ever wrestled. I watched him in Japan one time. He had two broken fingers and couldn't make a fist, but he was committed to a five-week contract and wouldn't give up. During the tour, he broke two ribs and still got in the ring every night. The man was not human - and still isn't."

Kowalski keeps young by running a Boston wrestling school. His prize graduate: Big John Studd. "I saw him grow from a kid with a lot of ability to someone who'll be remembered 40 years from now.

"A lot of the kids in the ring tonight—they look good, but they haven't experienced the depths of pain necessary to be on the top of the wrestling game." Kowalski promised to help teach them during the Battle Royal.



A few doors away, Chief Jay Strongbow looked forward to repaying an old debt. "I never approved of Kowalski's heartless style," said the Chief. "He admitted that he went into the ring not to wrestle but to cripple. There are very few men I dislike more than him. Tonight, I get my hands on him again."

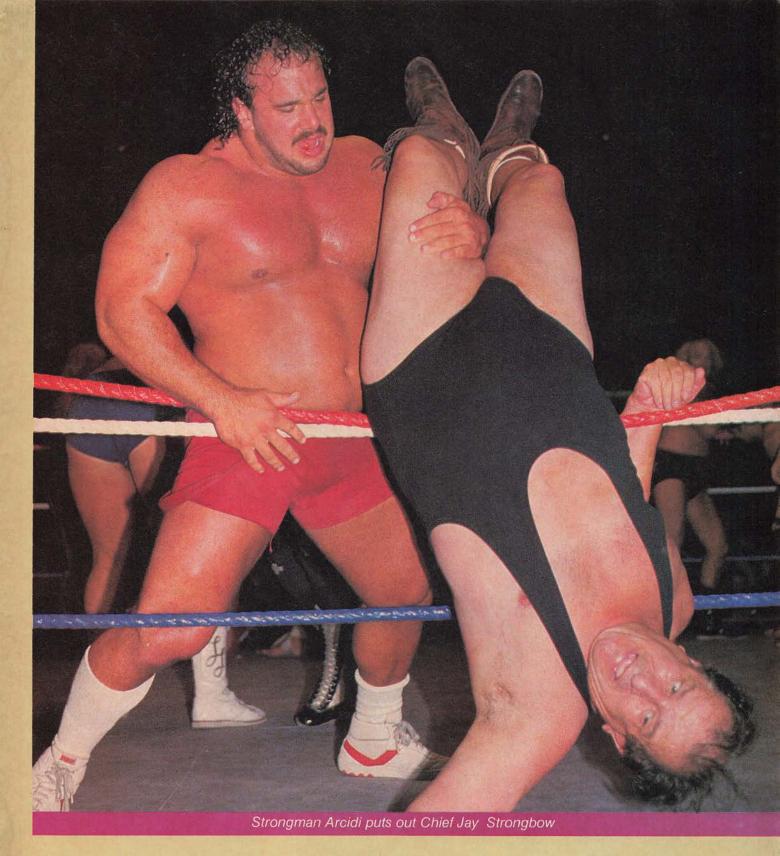
Meanwhile, the match's most peculiar participant, the Fabulous Moolah, strutted along the back-stage corridor, snapping gum and grinning. "For 30 years I've wanted to get into a Battle Royal with men," claimed the WWF Women's Champion. "Tonight I'm going to prove that size doesn't matter in the wrestling ring. It's brains. And, baby, who's more clever than the

Fabulous Moolah?"

Twice in her career, she stepped into the squared circle with male opponents. "Both times I won, too. The first guy I whipped was Luis Martinez. I got him in the roll-up, and the referee counted 'one-two-three.' The second guy I beat was Danny....I don't even remember his last name. He was 205 pounds, and it didn't mean nothing. I put him in the small package and won the match the same way I did the world championship."

By now, the corridor was crowded with combatants. Aside from Kowalski, Strongbow, Albano and Moolah, the gladiators were Les Thornton, Mario Mancini, Tiger Chung Lee, Mr. X, Hoss and Jimmy Jack Funk, Mr. Fuji, Pete





Terry Gibbs, Greg "The Hammer" Valentine, Brutus Beefcake, Tony Atlas, the Moondogs, Jose Luis Rivera, Sivi Afi, the Hart Foundation, Samson the Greek, Corporal Kirchner, Danny "The Golden Boy"

Spivey, Mike Rotundo, the Iron

Sheik, Nikolai Volkoff and Leaping

"The Duke of Dorchester" Doherty,

Lanny Poffo. Jimmy Hart, originally scheduled to compete, complained of a case of "the sniffles" shortly before match time, and Johnny V. was enlisted to substitute.

Punches began flying before the opening bell. Captain Lou Albano won the approval of the crowd by slugging the hated Iron Sheik.

Seconds later, though, the Captain found himself booed as he went after popular Lanny Poffo.

Killer Kowalski decided to teach young Samson the Greek a lesson in treachery. Spotting Kowalski, Chief Jay Strongbow shoulderblocked his way across the ring, bashing him from the side. The



However she managed it, Moolah was the winner

Killer went down on one knee, managing to land a fist to his old rival's midsection before other wrestlers rolled between them.

First eliminated was Albano, compliments of Bret "Hit Man" Hart. Pete Doherty and Samson would be quickly tossed over the top rope to join him on the arena floor.

Perhaps recalling his battles with Greg Valentine's father, Johnny, Kowalski focused on the Hammer. Despite his age, Kowalski managed to floor the blond fireplug. Feeling confident, the rough old-timer smashed Siva Afi, then locked up with Corporal Kirchner.

Safe from the heat of battle were Johnny V. and the Fabulous Moolah, crouched and hidden on the arena floor - on opposite sides of the ring from each other. WWF photographer Tom Buchanan tried to snap a photo of the women's champion, who curled her head into her arms and shouted for him to leave.

Kowalski was starting to wear

down, taking a karate chop across the neck from Mr. Fuji. Dan Spivey and Mike Rotundo interceded, pummeling the Japanese rule-breaker, but the Killer soon was being kicked by the Hart Foundation. He lashed out with a few licks before Moondog Spot moved in to rub Bret Hart's face against the ropes.

Terry Gibbs was thrown out by Valentine, who next became engaged in a tie-up on the ropes with the Hart Foundation, Brutus Beefcake and Corporal Kirchner. Keeping his combat boots firmly planted on the canvas, Kirchner maneuvered the others over the ropes.

Kowalski now tried to take on the Corporal, who won a test of strength. Spotting the encounter, Strongbow raced over to assist Kirchner in eliminating Kowalski.

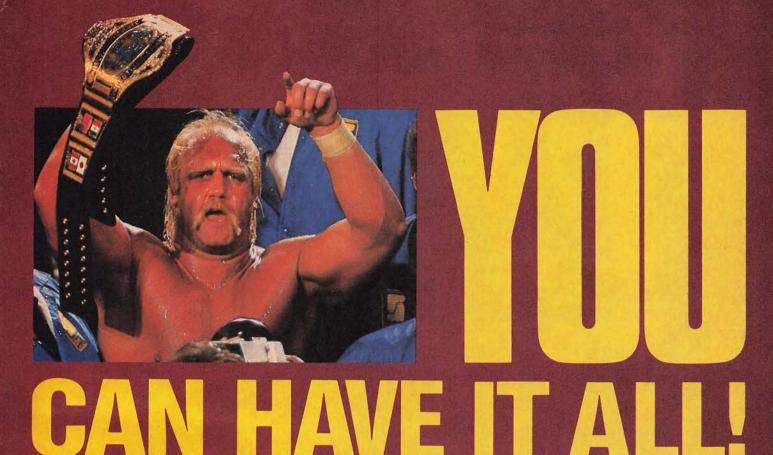
Now, the action heated up. Bodies flew from the ring - too fast to keep track. With people falling all around them, Jimmy Jack and Hoss Funk wound up on the losing end of a wild arena floor brawl with Spivey.

While Moolah and Valiant were still hidden outside the ring, the last two men between the ropes, Corporal Kirchner and Nikolai Volkoff, faced off. Kirchner floored the Russian with a jab but missed when he attempted to follow through with a kneedrop. Volkoff lifted his frequent foe and moved toward the ropes. Valiant snuck in behind the pair and shoved them out.

Hands raised over his head, Valiant declared, "Give me that \$50,000." Instead of receiving the check, he got a flying dropkick in the back - from the Fabulous Moolah who had crawled into the ring behind him. Valiant flew over the ropes.

From outside the ring, Valiant screamed foul. Moolah did the stroll, grabbed the mike and said, "I'm the greatest - just like I told you I was." The fans, while upset with the lady's tactics, still had to cheer her resourcefulness.

Andy Paris shook his head and smiled. He has spent a lifetime marveling at the men of the squared circle. Tonight, he would go home marveling at a woman.





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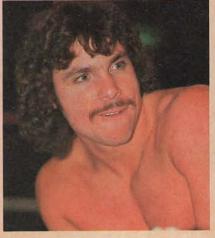
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is bulking



"Right now, I'm adding bulk. Then, through aerobics and diet, I'll melt away fat. I'm a year from that chiseled Steamboat look."

by Keith Elliot Greenberg

ven in the staid atmosphere of the downtown gym, the World Wrestling Federation's resident poet couldn't contain himself from rhyming. Leaping Lanny Poffo's bright eyes danced over the glistening bodies of the rugged regulars until he found one fellow pumping too hard. "Hey, pal," Poffo began, "that's a method most foul."

"Wonderful," someone moaned. "It's Robert Frost."

The subject of Poffo's attention, trembling as he struggled with a bench press, gasped for his spotter to take the weight from him. Bodybuilders rarely appreciate outside advice, but the perpetually smiling Poffo had the look of a guy with cosmic awareness. "What am I doing wrong?" the man asked, sitting up on the bench.

"Around here there are many who say, 'No pain, no gain," the wrestler answered in a resonant tone. "And to them I reply, 'train, don't strain."

In the locker room, Poffo expanded on his verse: "You can't overexert yourself in weightlifting especially if you're a wrestler. Back damage can ruin your career. Too many people go into a weight room to impress others. You should just concentrate on improving yourself."

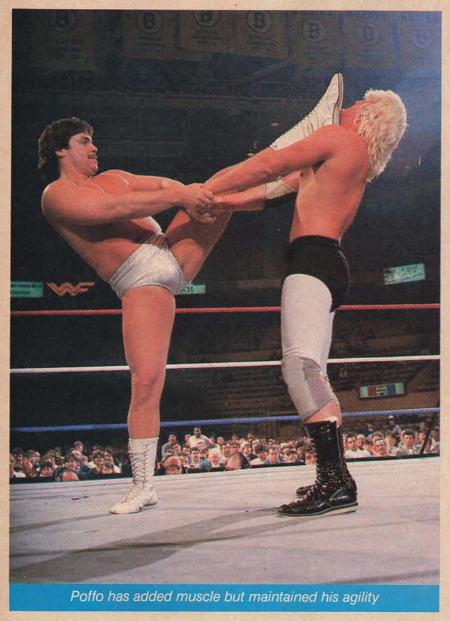
Poffo is trying hard to become the most improved grappler of 1986. Since he entered the WWF, his weight has shot up to 256 pounds from 219. While others with the same statistics probably have been logging extra hours in the kitchen, Poffo's secret is an intensive weight-training program.

His teacher is Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat, who has spent years toning his near-perfect body in his North Carolina gymnasium. "The main thing Rick has

been telling me is 'have patience,'"
Lanny says. "Nothing happens
overnight. Right now, I'm adding
bulk. Then, through aerobics and
diet, I'll melt away fat. I'd say I'm
about a year from having that
chiseled Steamboat look."

Long a practitioner of the aerial ring assault, Poffo hopes the extra muscle will transform him from a hang glider into a B-1 bomber. "My favorite finishing hold is the sky drop. When my opponent is down on the canvas, I backflip off the second rope onto his body. If he moves, though, I'm in big trouble. The stronger I get, the more I'll be able to insure that he'll be immobile."

When he was 8 years old, Leaping Lanny began his gymnastics training under the tutelage of Carl Ingstrom, a wrestling colleague of his dad, Angelo Poffo. The boy started with cartwheels, walkovers and backbends, later



graduating to front and back aerial cartwheels and back handsprings. "I can bridge out of a pin or most holds," Poffo claims. "My gymnastics background has helped me get a win out of people I probably would have lost to."

Did he ever contemplate a career as a gymnast? "No, I always knew my bone structure was too large. Gymnastics has evolved into a sport of double-back-handsprings with twists. It looks great, but you have to be a certain size to do it.

"Still, just because you're not the best at something doesn't mean you shouldn't try. If only the best did everything, we'd all be in the bleachers."

Poffo has also studied yoga,

which he claims gave him the flexibility to withstand painful holds and the mental strength to realize professional and personal goals.

After a glass of iceless fruit juice ("it has enough carbohydrates to increase blood sugar"), Poffo's daily workout begins. His routine varies, but the purpose is always the same: building strength.

Holding 225 pounds, he does 20 squat repetitions 10 to 20 times. In between sets he places a 35-pound barbell behind his neck and pulls up and down. "I don't really concentrate on how many I'm doing. I just think about stretching out my lungs."

On another day, he lays on a flat bench and pumps 225 pounds up to 100 times - taking breaks when "Whether you're a professional wrestler, an architect or an automobile mechanic, you should work on ridding yourself of negative emotions. Hatred and jealousy just get in your way. If you have good health, appreciate it and work to improve upon it. Don't take it for granted."

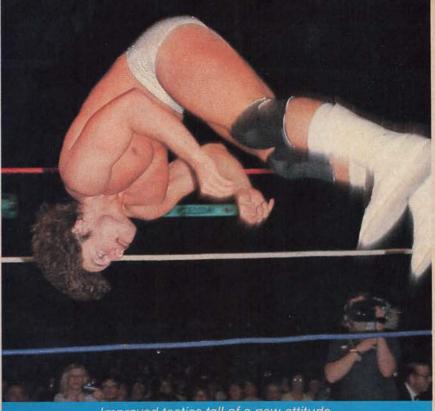
necessary. He then does an inclined bench press to improve chest and shoulders. For shoulders and triceps, he puts the bar behind his neck and presses. "All these exercises have added mass to my upper body," he says.

Poffo works on his back muscles by trying different grips on the lat machine. Although several of his wrestling friends are partial to rowing, he avoids the exercise. "I feel that rowing puts too much strain on your back."

A constant in Leaping Lanny's regimen: leg exercises. "That's the most important part of my workout. A wrestler's legs are his livelihood - especially a wrestler with my style."

Varying weights are used for leg curls. "It depends on the machine you're using - how well it's oiled. I try to do 100 reps. If I can't feel the first 30, I know I'm using the right amount of weight."

On those days when his schedule takes him far from a leg machine, Lanny squats 1,000 times. "The effect on your legs is obvious. But squatting also improves your cardiovascular system. It's very easy to get winded in the ring. If your style is aerial and you move around quickly, you can tire yourself out



Improved tactics tell of a new attitude

faster than others. I know some very talented wrestlers who defeated themselves because they wore down too rapidly."

To Leaping Lanny Poffo, winning is a combination of physical and mental ingredients. "There's an expression that I live by: a sound mind in a sound body. It relates to yoga, which means 'union' - a physical, mental and spiritual union.

"Whether you're a professional wrestler, an architect or an automobile mechanic, you should work on ridding yourself of negative emotions. Hatred and jealousy just get in your way. Those feelings are a waste of time.

"If you have good health, appreciate it and work to improve upon it. People who lose their health spend thousands of dollars trying to get it back. It's the most valuable gift. Don't take it for granted."

Poffo Perfects His Form.

The year 1987 will herald an age of "high tech" wrestling, according to Leaping Lanny Poffo, who has spent the last several months working on his musculature as well as a computer "to figure out how to best exert the largest amount of pounds per square inch on an opponent."

A recent confrontation with the Iron Sheik allowed Lanny to showcase a few of the moves he is improving. Shortly after locking up with the strapping Iranian, Lanny displayed his revered back ankle scissors walking in front of the Sheik on his hands, catching the baldheaded rulebreaker's sweaty head between the ankles and flipping the former WWF champion to the mat. The Sheik sprang up, angry and confused, only to be whipped back down by Lanny's flying ankle scissors.

After sliding onto the arena floor for a breather, the Sheik reentered the ring and slugged Lanny, who shocked his powerful adversary by battling back and stunning the Teheran terror with several blows. "As my weight increases," Leaping Lanny said later, "I am always at my computer studying ways of adding intensity to my hand power."

With the Sheik wobbling, Lanny hit him with a dropkick more solid than aerial assaults of the past because Poffo's squatting exercises have developed his leg strength. He has also sped up his in-the-air spin, increasing the kick's sting.

Eyes slanted, mouth scowling, the Sheik rose from the canvas and blindly charged Lanny. Poffo sidestepped his stampeding foe, grabbed his wrist, climbed to the top rope and backflipped, snapping the Sheik down jiujitsu style. By the time the Sheik got up this time, Lanny was again on the top rope, poised to demonstrate his skydrop - a backflip/bodypress.

Amazingly, the Sheik kicked out of the pin attempt at the two-count - as the crowd moaned in disapproval.

Poffo hopes in their next encounter to introduce the Middle Eastern menace to the broken heart - a top rope flip in which one's back crashes down on an opponent's sternum. "They don't get up from that," Poffo claims.

In this corporate age, Lanny is looking at professional wrestling from a business standpoint. "All the best companies pour money into research and development," he explains. "That's what keeps them from becoming static and obsolete. With the abundance of talent in the World Wrestling Federation, I feel compelled to take the same approach. I promise you that I'll be entering a new year - and a new era with a new body and new attitude."



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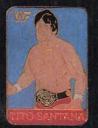


George The Animal Steele Andre The Giant





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Tito Santana



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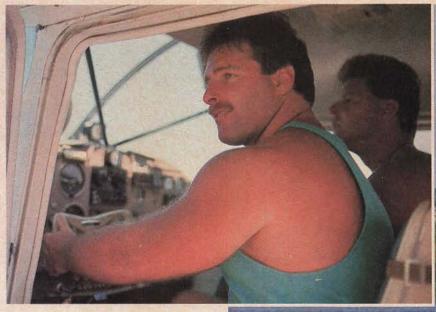
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THE ROUGEA Jacques and Raymon



PHOTOS BY STEVE TAYLOR

uggedly handsome
Jacques and Raymond
Rougeau are avid outdoorsmen, devotees of
boating, fishing, hunting and other
outdoor recreation. Although they
fish for sharks and scuba dive in
Florida waters, most of their outdoor pursuits are in their native
Quebec. Recently, for example,
Raymond left in his Piper PA-12
seaplane after a wrestling card in
Ohio and flew straight to northern
Quebec for a moose hunt.

The Rougeaus are so busy wrestling, however, they seldom have time for long vactions. So whenever they get the chance, they hit the St. Lawrence River near their home town of St. Suplice, outside of Montreal. They keep a powerboat at a local marina and dock Raymond's seaplane nearby. A typical



U'S QUEBEC: d at home and at play





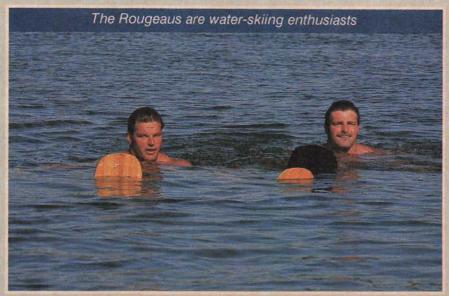


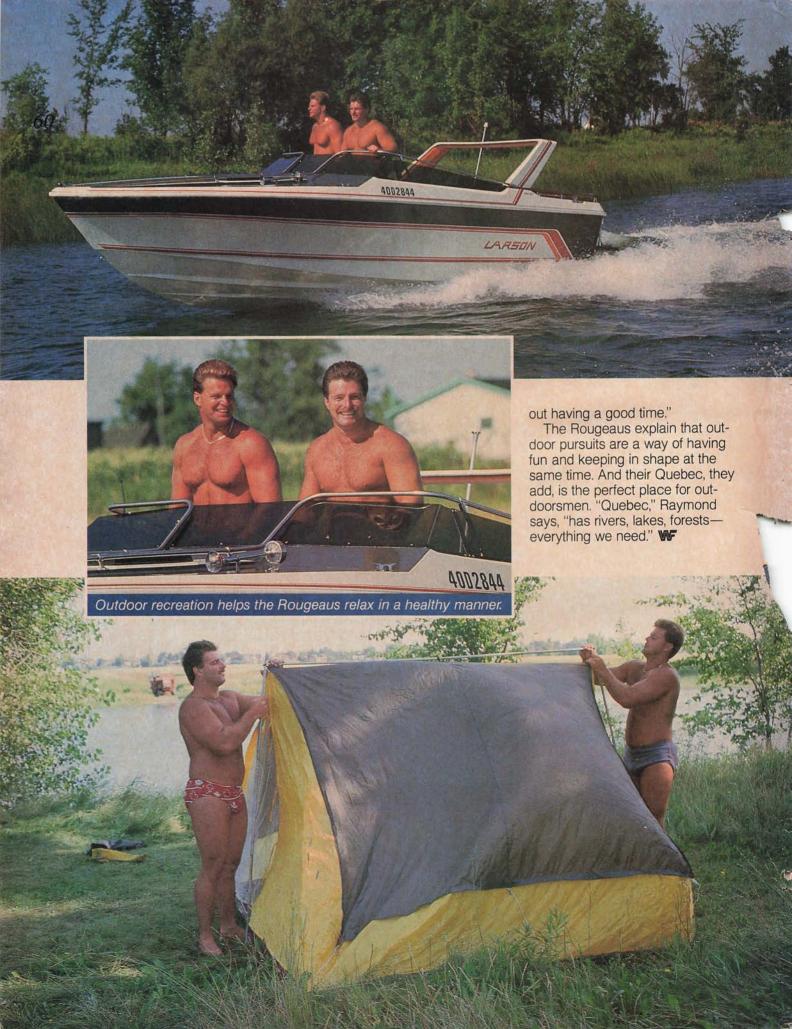
Rougeau day on the river sees them water-skiing, whipping up a storm in their boat and batting a volleyball around on shore.

The Rougeau brothers are extremely close, both in and out of the ring. Playing together, they say, reinforces that feeling of kinship, which in turn helps them work together as a single unit in the ring.

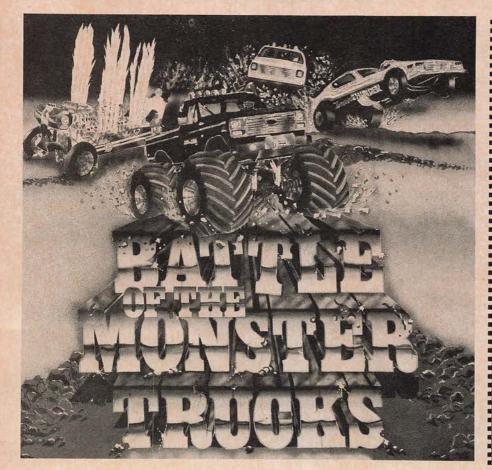
"We are together most of the time," says Jacques. "We've always been that way, ever since we were boys. It's something that comes naturally."

"In the ring," says Raymond, "there's no one else I'd rather have on my side than Jacques. The same goes for when we're





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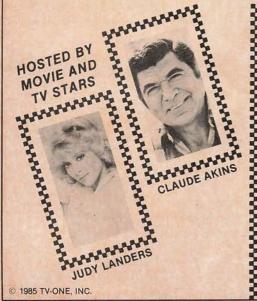
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f anything, Jimmy "Mouth of the South" Hart is as irreverent as he is loud. Now, with the release in Canada of a new album bearing the Epic label, former rock singer Hart has put his irreverent comments about the rest of us mortals into song. Particular targets of Hart's Outrageous Conduct album, available as a record or tape, are Rick Springfield (Eat Your Hart Out, Rick Springfield) and Barbra



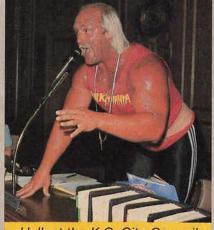
Streisand (Barbra Streisand's Nose). The album contains nine vocals and an instrumental. It has been released for Canadian distribution by CBS Music Products, Inc., and efforts are underway as of this writing to make it available in the United States by mail order.

Three new WWF television shows are wowing viewers coast-to-coast and across the globe. WWF Superstars of Wrestling is hosted by Vince McMahon, Bruno Sammartino and Jesse "The Body" Ventura. WWF Wrestling Challenge features Gorilla Monsoon and color commentators such as manager Johnny V., and WWF Wrestling Spotlight has Mean Gene Okerlund and Lord Alfred Hayes commenting on key match-ups and other significant events in the WWF.

Three WWF stars have been featured in a national Chevrolet television commercial for 1987 Chevy trucks. Producing the commercial must have been a bit tricky, however, because it required **King Kong Bundy** and his tag team cohort, the **Giant John**

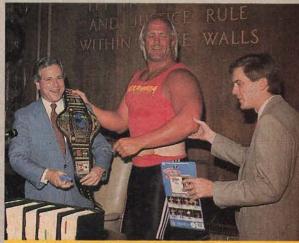
WWF Wrap Up

Studd, to be on the same set with Hillbilly Jim. His partner in the affair was former professional football great Dick Butkus. The general idea behind the commercial is that Chevy trucks are as tough as the athletes who appeared in it. Obviously in it for the cash, Studd and Bundy refrained from trying any funny business with Jim, who in turn kept his distance from the pair of giants off the set.



Hulk at the K.C. City Council

WWF Champion Hulk Hogan was presented with the keys to Kansas City, Missouri, during a recent City Council meeting there. Hogan, in town for a WWF card,



Mayor Berkley, left, and the Champ

was given the keys by Mayor Richard L. Berkley, who at the same time proclaimed the day as Hulk Hogan Day in his city.

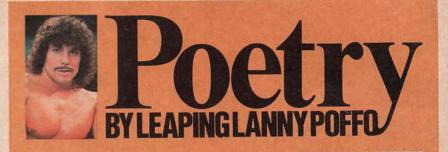
On another television note, the WWF's Saturday Night's Main Event aired on NBC-TV October 4 was witnessed by the largest crowd ever to see the Event live. More than 19,000 people jammed the Richfield, Ohio, Coliseum—home court of the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers—to see firsthand what millions of viewers watched on their home screens across the country.

Jesse, from left, Vince and Bruno-Superstars hosts



- Jake Roberts' snake is a:
 - a. Boa Constrictor
 - b. Python
 - c. Asp
- 2) Tito Santana played football for the:
 - a. Minnesota Vikings
 - b. San Diego Chargers
 - c. Kansas City Chiefs
- 3) The bird that Koko B. Ware brings to the ring is a:
 - a. Macaw
 - b. Parrot
 - c. Pigeon
- 4) Which two schools did Mike Rotundo and Danny Spivey attend respectively:
 - a. Notre Dame, Boston College
 - b. Syracuse, Georgia
 - c. Ohio University, Hofstra
- 5) The Killer Bees call their new strategy:
 - a. Mask Confusion
 - b. The Super Sting
 - c. Honeycomb
- Billy Jack Haynes hails from:
 - a. Portland, Maine
 - b. Tacoma, Washington
 - c. Portland, Oregon
- Who was the last man to get thrown off the top rope in the WrestleMania 2 Battle Royal:
 - a. Bret "Hit Man" Hart
 - b. Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart
 - c. Russ Francis
- 8) Hercules Hernandez is managed by:
 - a. Bobby "The Brain" Heenan b. Johnny "V"

 - c. Freddie Blassie and Slick



Once upon a wrestling ring Not so very long ago, Bruno Sammartino Was the only name to know.

He stood up to Buddy Rogers, And the Nature Boy went down. Less than sixty seconds later, Bruno wore the crown.

He's a real Italian stallion; That's a fact you can't ignore. Each time he stepped in through the ropes, He was ready for a war.

The Living Legend is going strong For every single fan. He's right there by the microphone Next to Vince McMahon.

- 9) Hulk Hogan's birthday is:
 - a. August 11th
 - b. February 9th
 - c. March 12th
- 10) Handsome Harley Race is referred to as:
 - a. The Duke
 - b. The King
 - c. The Master

ANSWERS:

6)c 7)a 8)c 9)a 10)b 1)p 5)c 3)g 4)p 2)g

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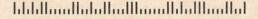
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